

German arms for Kurds seized in Turkey

HABUR, Turkey (AP) — German military supplies destined for Kurds in northern Iraq were seized at this border post, an official said Sunday. The report could not be independently verified. A story about the alleged incident appeared Sunday in the influential daily Milliyet. The governor of Sinak province, Mustafa Malay, said in an interview the report was accurate. However, a German foreign ministry spokesman in Bonn said he had heard nothing about such an arms seizure and was sceptical of the report. Milliyet reported that a convoy of 43 trucks carrying four anti-aircraft gun carriages, an undetermined number of steel helmets, camouflage material and backpacks was searched here Friday night. Mr. Malay said the material of strategic importance being sent to the Iraqi Kurds was barred from crossing the border since it was against regulations to transport unauthorised military goods to another country through Turkish territory. Mr. Malay said the convoy was guarded by 90 German police officers and had arrived from Germany by land. It should not have been allowed to cross into Turkey if it had been properly searched at the border in western Turkey, he said. The report seems highly unusual.



Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي

Transport workers elect office-bearers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of the Association of Workers in Land Transport and Mechanics voted Sunday for a new 77-member administrative committee, but results were not expected until late Sunday night. Competing for the committee were 331 contestants belonging to four blocs, namely the Reform and Work Bloc, the Salvation Bloc, the Right and Justice Bloc (a Muslim Brotherhood group) and the National Bloc, a nationalist coalition. The association is the largest among all associations of trade unions and labourers. It has nine branches in the nine governorates of Jordan. The association, which was established in 1954, includes 120,000 members all over Jordan. Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti visited polling centres in Irbid and Mafrqa, where 90 contestants were competing for 15 seats. The ministry's secretary general, Saleh Tarawneh, inspected polling centres in Sal, Madaba and Wadi Seer. He stressed that the election process was going smoothly, and that members were exercising their democratic rights freely and responsibly. He noted that special committees from the association, the ministry and the nominees' representatives were supervising the election process.

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Jordanian festivities begin in Seville

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath will open on Monday week-long Jordanian activities in Seville, Spain. The Jordanian pavilion at the Seville Expo artefacts included pictures and archaeological pieces (see page 5)

Panel on restoration support meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive board of the newly-established popular committee for supporting His Majesty King Hussein's initiative on the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque Sunday held its first meeting at the Amman Chamber of Industry's conference hall to work out a plan of action. The board members named the committee's representatives in the various governorates and districts, as well as its representatives to the associations and trade unions. The board discussed methods of raising funds from the various institutions and public at large to support King Hussein's initiative.

Right-wing advances in Berlin poll

BERLIN (R) — The far-right won 7.9 per cent on Sunday in Berlin district polls. Germans feared would confirm a slide towards law-and-order parties campaigning against immigrants, first projections showed. Election officials also reported a low voter turnout — a trend expected to help the far-right Republicans over mainstream parties like Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU). A shock 10.9 per cent result for the rightist Republicans in Baden-Wuerttemberg state last month jolted mainline parties into a last-minute drive to block them in the Berlin polls.

Vote on Italian president delayed

ROME (R) — Italy's fractious parliament, unable to overcome divisions despite a deadly mafia challenge to the state, on Sunday postponed its 16th attempt to pick a president. The decision came after the main political parties pleaded for more time to reach a consensus after the murder of Italy's best-known anti-mafia judge, Giovanni Falcone, blown up by a huge bomb on Saturday near the Sicilian capital, Palermo. Italy's neo-fascists, pressing for the reintroduction of the death penalty and the proclamation of a state of war in Sicily over Judge Falcone's murder, accused parliament of ignoring the nation's pleas for a quick election. Officially, the vote was delayed until 1630 GMT on Monday in a sign of mourning for Judge Falcone and the other victims of the mafia bombing.

Herzog starts visit to Poland

WARSAW (R) — President Chaim Herzog arrived in Warsaw Sunday for the first visit by an Israeli head of state to Poland, once home to the world's biggest Jewish community. The five-day trip includes visits by Mr. Herzog to the birthplace of his grandfather in the eastern town of Tykocin and to Auschwitz, the biggest graveyard of the World War II holocaust in which six million people were killed by Nazis. He will also address parliament and meet President Lech Walesa who, during a visit to Israel last May, broke new grounds in Polish-Jewish relations by asking Jews to forgive centuries of Polish anti-Semitism.

Quake hits east Egypt; no damage

CAIRO (AP) — An earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale hit east Egypt early Sunday, waking up people but causing no reported damage or casualties. The seven-second earthquake was felt by some residents of Cairo, some 150 kilometres west of the epicentre. It occurred at 2:10 a.m. Sunday (2310 GMT Saturday). "I woke up with a start to find the bed shaking," said a Cairo housewife. "But it was over very quickly and there was no damage in the house or around us." There was no reported damage or casualties in eastern Egypt either.

3 Palestinians and Israeli soldier killed in Gaza clash

Israeli girl stabbed to death in separate incident

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — Three Palestinians and an Israeli border policeman died in a gunfight Sunday. Later a Gaza Arab stabbed to death a Jewish girl in Bat Yam, a working-class town near Tel Aviv, sending a mob of Israelis into the streets shouting for vengeance. They attacked Arabs, critically wounding one.

A Palestinian from the occupied West Bank was knifed in the neighbouring town of Rishon Lezion and hospitalised, and another came to the hospital saying he was injured by stones thrown at his car, police said.

In Gaza City, 65 kilometres south of the town of Bat Yam, troops seeking suspects in the Sabra Quarter of Gaza City "encountered a terrorist gang inside one of the homes," a military communiqué said.

It said the Arabs were Muslim fundamentalists, and that they fired a pistol and threw a grenade, killing a soldier. The Israeli fired back, killing three, it said.

It was one of the bloodiest clashes between Israelis and Palestinians in the occupied territories in months. The army said one of the dead Arabs was Marwan Al Zayeh, 19, suspected of fatally stabbing three Israelis in the Jaffa section of Tel Aviv in December 1990. There was no apparent connection between the gunfight and the killing of 15-year-old Helena Rapp who was stabbed in Bat Yam.

Israel's main Likud and Labour parties agreed to cancel scheduled political broadcasts because of the girl's stabbing. In Gaza, mosques broadcast passages from the Koran over loudspeakers to mourn the Arab losses.

Israeli troops and civilians have killed 930 Palestinians since the December 1987 outbreak of the intifada.

Knife attacks have killed 25 Israelis and tourists in the past 19 months.

Police said the latest stabbing suspect, a 19-year-old Palestinian from the Nuseirat refugee camp, was being questioned. Arab reports identified him as Fuad Abdul Atti Amran.

He told police he acted out of frustration at failing to obtain work in Israel, Israel Radio said.

Police said another Palestinian was being held as a suspected accomplice.

David Latori told army radio he drove by at about 7.30 a.m. (0430GMT) and saw an Arab stabbing an Israeli girl.

Police officer Moshe Mizrahi said an air force major and soldier fired shots and the assailant was caught by civilians.

"We kicked him and punched him," said Latori. "His face and nose were covered in blood but he didn't let go of the knife."

Army officers predicted militants would "escalate attacks ahead of Israel's June 23 election in the hope of boosting support for political parties opposed to U.S.-brokered Middle East peace efforts."

34 Gazans shot and wounded

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops shot and wounded 34 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip on Sunday during protests over a gunfight which killed three Palestinians and an Israeli border policeman, Palestinian hospital sources said.

The army said eight Palestinians had been wounded in the Strip but was checking reports of additional casualties.

The hospital officials said the wounded were from Gaza City and Shati, Bureij, Jabalya, Khan Yunis, Rafah and Maghazi refugee camps.

The demonstrations erupted as news spread of the pre-dawn gunfight in Gaza, Palestinian sources said. The fatal clash occurred during a search by combined units of soldiers and border police for wanted men.

But they said the Gaza gunbattle would weaken the Qassam military wing of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, a rival of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) opposed to Arab-Israeli peace moves.

Dozens of Bat Yam Jews marched through streets and overturned Arab cars identified by their blue license plates.

Children watching from the windows of a primary school chanted "Death to the Arabs."

Police said two Arabs were beaten up and a police officer was hit on the head with a metal bar.

All were taken to the hospital. They said 14 Jews were arrested, five of them members of the extremist Kach movement.

Israel Television quoted Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as saying he regretted the girl's attacker had been captured alive.

"Nothing would have happened to whoever would have shot him. Murderers need to know they cannot get out alive and that they are mortal. There are lawyers that criticise me when I say this, but that's my opinion," the television quoted Mr. Shamir as saying.

Israeli election laws forbid radio and television broadcasting candidates speaking for a month before the poll, but they may be quoted.

The leader of the main opposition Labour Party, Yitzhak Rabin, said the stabbing showed "a deterioration of internal security in the country," his spokesman said.

"He said it is inconceivable that Palestinian knives are allowed to move freely in the streets of our cities and it is unacceptable that Israeli citizens feel insecure in their neighbourhoods," spokesman Gad Ben Ari said.

Klestil elected Austrian president

VIENNA (R) — Conservative Thomas Klestil, a veteran diplomat, triumphed in Austria's presidential election on Sunday, scoring the biggest margin of victory in the country's modern history.

Dr. Klestil defeated Social Democrat Rudolf Streicher, a former minister of transport and industry, by 57 per cent to 43 per cent of the vote, according to official, provisional results.

Both men hailed the run-off election as a clean, non-partisan contest. But, while conservatives crowed, the Social Democrats smarted from their loss and far-rightists sought to claim a political advantage.

Austrian Television said Dr. Klestil, who entered the contest three months ago as the underdog, had won the biggest victory in presidential race since World War II. Mr. Streicher even lost in "Red" Vienna, usually a Social Democrat stronghold, it said.

Both candidates had predicted a neck-and-neck race for the largely ceremonial post and both were stunned by the result.

"It's a defeat. I congratulate Dr. Klestil," Mr. Klestil, 52, said in a television interview.

Dr. Klestil, 59, a veteran diplomat who spent 18 of the past 35 years in posts in the United States, was also quick to thank his opponent.

Palestinians stage protest against collaborator killings

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Three thousand Palestinians demonstrated in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip Saturday against the killing of Arabs suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities, Israel Television said. Members of the Palestinian negotiating team to Middle East peace talks attended the rally, at which speakers presented a nine-point pact calling for unity among Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The pact was drafted by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat this week at a meeting of a PLO committee directing the Palestinian uprising.

"Palestinians have one enemy, called Israel, and differences do not mean that we stop confronting the enemy to confront each other," said Abbas Zaki, one of the committee's leading officials.

The Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim, said in Amman Mr. Arafat last week signed a "pact of honour" which urged an end to the killings and was endorsed by the Palestine Central Council in Tunis early this month.

"The pact calls for an end to the killing of Palestinians in the occupied territories collaborating with Israel," Mr. Abdul Rahim told the AP.

He said the move was taken to "prevent Israel from using these



Haidar Abdul Shafi

operations to its personal benefit."

He added that it would "make Israel miss the chance of committing any terrorist activities against our citizens in the occupied territories."

Israel has been accused of recruiting death squads disguised as Palestinians in assassinations, although the Israeli army has denied it.

The head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, recently launched an unprecedented attack on the killers.

"It seems that the intifada is

getting out of control," Dr. Abdul Shafi lamented.

Mr. Zaki, the secretary general of the Popular Committee of the Intifada, told the AP in Amman that the idea of the "honour pact" was conceived inside the occupied territories.

The pact aims at "protecting the intifada against internal and individual conflicts," Mr. Zaki said.

He noted that this would "protect the ultimate interest and cause of the intifada, which are held above personal initiatives and interpretations."

The pact forbids the use of violence and calls for the adoption of a peaceful dialogue to resolve internal problems, according to Mr. Zaki.

"It prohibits attacks on the lives and properties of our people and protects individual freedoms," Mr. Zaki said.

"The pact forbids the wearing of face masks unless when acting against the Israeli enemy," he said.

The pact also includes a call on all Palestinians to adopt a reconciliatory approach with those who "got out of the national line," Mr. Zaki said.

Instead specialised legal committees were formed to deal with the collaborators, "because we believe that the intifada, as a national struggle, should be neutralised away from individual conflicts," Mr. Zaki said.

Publication of details from the earlier draft sparked a raft of criticism in many world capitals and led the White House to distance itself from the internal Pentagon document.

The revised version contains more diplomatic language but is little changed in so far as it impacts on actual Pentagon planning — as opposed to broad philosophical policy statements.

For example, it still says the Defence Department should keep a 1.6-million member military force and be capable of fighting two major regional wars at the same time while maintaining a sizeable presence in Europe.

Accounts of the updated policy document were also published in the Sunday edition of the Washington Post.



PRAYER FOR THE DEAD: A Thai man prays for the dead at a site where a pro-democracy demonstrator was shot dead by troops last week (see story on page 8)

Israeli gunners, allies shell South Lebanon for sixth day

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli gunners and their local militia allies on Sunday shelled for the sixth consecutive day South Lebanon villages where resistance fighters were positioned, witnesses said.

Security sources said Israel seemed determined to prevent Hizbollah (Party of God) guerrillas from having positions in villages close to the northern edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone."

Witnesses told Reuters Israeli and allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) artillerymen shelled after a brief overnight lull the Iqlim Al Toufah area, where members of the Islamic Resistance and its mainstream Hizbollah group were stationed.

"The shelling continued at about 5 a.m. (0200 GMT). Shells were falling at the rate of three to four every few minutes," said a security source in the southern port city of Sidon.

The targeted areas were the villages of 'Ain Bouswar, Jarjoun, Louwaizeh and Mita — located on a string of hills where a majority of farmers live.

The security sources said there was no report on casualties in the bombardment which eased in the morning.

The shelling kept some 14,000 people, who had fled their homes during the past six days of violence, away from their villages waiting for the tension to calm down.

The chief of Israeli policy in Lebanon on Sunday threatened stepped-up retaliation if Syria does not curb attacks by Hizbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon on Israeli soldiers and their Lebanese allies.

Uri Lubrani, speaking to Israel Radio, accused both Syria and Iran of encouraging assaults by the guerrillas on Israel's self-declared "security zone."

Mr. Lubrani, asked about reports that Syrian radio had warned of the danger of the struggle escalating into war, replied: "This depends on Syria, not on us."

The Arab League Sunday condemned the Israeli air and ground attacks in South Lebanon and called on the U.N. Security Council to stop the Jewish state.

"The Arab League's general secretariat is following with extreme concern and condemnation Israel's attacks on South Lebanon ... which has resulted in a high number of innocent casualties," said the statement issued by the 21-member organisation.

"The international community, and especially the members of the Security Council, are asked to take the initiative and take necessary measures to stop these attacks immediately and force Israel to implement international legitimacy," the statement added.

Yemen seeks talks with Saudis on dispute

SANAA (Agencies) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh said on Sunday Yemen wanted talks as soon as possible on Saudi claims to oil-rich areas near the border between the two countries.

Speaking to reporters in Sanaa, the Yemeni leader referred to a letter which he said the Saudi government sent to oil company British Petroleum, warning it against exploring areas the kingdom considered its territory.

"Such a claim by the Saudis is a reason for speeding up the negotiations because every side knows which is its territory and which area is under its control," he said.

"We are ready to discuss the border issue with the Saudis... when they are interested, in a way that guarantees the rights of both sides."

Mr. Saleh said Saudi Arabia was claiming the Hadramout, Maareh and Al Jawf areas near the border.

Under Saudi pressure, BP cancelled plans this month to drill a Red Sea oil concession, a move seen by Yemen as a breach of contract.

Saudi official in Aden

A Saudi Arabian official was in Yemen Sunday, inaugurating Riyadh-financed projects on a rare visit.

Mohammad Abdullah Al Sagheer, commissioner-general of the Saudi Investment Fund, was joined by Yemeni Prime Minister Heidar Al Attas for the inauguration of the Riyadh housing scheme and the general hospital in Aden.

Arab League chief urges Western-Libyan dialogue

CAIRO (Agencies) — The head of the Arab League urged Western states on Sunday to open a dialogue with Libya to resolve their dispute over the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner.

"There is no harm in having a dialogue and no one should be afraid of negotiations," Esmaat Abdul Meguid, Secretary-General of the Cairo-based league, told Reuters in an interview.

Western diplomats in Cairo said Britain and the United States were not willing to have any negotiations with Libya over their "bottom-line" demand for Tripoli to hand over two men accused of bombing the Pan Am Jumbo jet.

"They are not interested in any meetings, just Libya's full compliance with the U.N. resolution (731)," one said.

But Dr. Abdul Meguid said: "This dialogue is needed and very normal in issues like this, whether directly or through a third party. How else then can we come out of this dilemma or this deadlock?"

Dr. Abdul Meguid said there were no new proposals to resolve the dispute circulating at present.

He said Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mohammad Beshari told U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in a letter earlier this month the fate of the two men would be decided by the people's congress, a form of parliament, which would open in Libya on June 11.

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Elections over, Kurds ponder difficult future

SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (Agencies) — Iraq's Kurds, intoxicated with democracy during their first free elections, are waking up to a hangover of sobering problems and responsibilities.

"Rebuilding the economy is our biggest job," Kurdish rebel leader Massoud Barzani said on Sunday. "We depend on the West for assistance now... there is not much we can do by ourselves."

Mr. Barzani and arch-rival Jalal Talabani split Tuesday's vote. There will be a run-off between the two men for paramount leadership of the Kurds.

Their respective parties each took 50 seats in the new parliament.

Baghdad's seven-month blockade of Kurdistan has left the economy in a shambles. Factories are closed for want of spare parts and raw materials, leaving most Kurds unemployed.

Soaring food prices have left many families without meat or milk for months. Buying petrol means long queues and short tempers.

Kurds say Baghdad has flooded northern Iraq with bogus currency. Schools and hospitals are open, but they lack supplies. Kurdistan's roads and bridges are crumbling.

Under a post-election deal, the speaker of the new parliament will be a Barzani man and Mr. Talabani will nominate the head of Kurdistan's executive council.

This careful division of power could make it easier to form a government and end militia rule in northern Iraq.

Kurdish Peshmerga guerrilla forces, whose loyalties have been local, tribal and political, may submit more readily to civilian control in a government where Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani hold equal sway.

As Kurds look to fill the economic and administrative vacuum created by the blockade, they must reassure their U.S.-led Western allies and suspicious neighbours — especially Turkey — that self-government does not mean independence.

Kurdish political leaders hope that by establishing a foothold for democracy in difficult Middle Eastern terrain they have cemented their relations with the West.

Northern Iraq receives food and medicine from Western donors via tenuous supply lines that pass through Turkey. The



Jalal Talabani



Massoud Barzani

100,000 Iraqi troops deployed along Kurdistan's southern frontier are restrained only by Western air power flying from Turkish bases.

Turkey, contending with a bloody Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) revolt, is a reluctant ally of Iraq's Kurds.

"We are not going to allow the PKK to continue cross-border raids on Turkey from (Iraqi) Kurdistan," said Mr. Barzani. "Turkey is our bridge to the West... we must protect our supply lines."

The Kurds have regained control over most of northern Iraq and established a democratic basis for self-government since their post-Gulf war rebellion collapsed last year.

"We must study the matter and discuss it," Mr. Talabani said when asked about relations with Iraq. "Now we must enjoy our elections."

After the election results were announced, an elated Talabani said they heralded a new era of cooperation between the two parties.

But the rhetoric of rapprochement may be easier than the practice, because the two leaders remain deeply divided on fundamental issues.

The election has been seen in no small part as a referendum on the Kurds' future relations with Baghdad, which has deemed the vote illegal.

Mr. Barzani has based his campaign on a platform of "realism" that involves negotiations with Baghdad on autonomy and ownership of the oil-rich city of Kirkuk. Barzani spokesman said Saturday that the Kurdish "cabinet" would not infringe on Iraq's sovereignty by appointing ministers of foreign affairs, defence or finance.

Mr. Talabani wants self-determination for the Kurds. And is banking on Iraq's post-Gulf war isolation and the military protection the West provides the Kurds to resist deals with the Iraqi government.

Mubarak preaches national unity in militant stronghold

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak toured the troubled south of his country on Sunday to urge Muslims and Christians to unite, saying stability was essential to Egypt's economic reforms.

"We have to maintain stability. For Muslims or Christians, religion is something between a man and our God," he told a public meeting in this Upper Egyptian city, a hotbed of strife between Muslim and Egypt's Christian minority.

His visit appeared aimed at reassuring local residents the government was still in control following last month's massacre of 31 people, 12 of them Christians, by Muslim militants at the nearby village of Manshiet Nasser, the worst single incident of sectarian violence in 10 years.

Mr. Mubarak said stability was vital to Egypt's economic health. Egypt has over \$10 billion of international debt forgiveness riding on ambitious economic reforms it agreed last year with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"I don't think any country in the world will help us if we do not safeguard our stability," he told about a thousand local dignitaries, including Muslim and Christian clergymen. "Our economy has improved a lot... a convulsion would destroy us."

Security men lined the hot road from Assiut airport to the town hall where Mr. Mubarak spoke. Along the way, trained horses danced to the rhythm of traditional Egyptian folk music.

Banners festooned the streets to welcome Mr. Mubarak, including many describing Assiut as "bastion of national unity."

Mr. Mubarak, who last visited the town in 1986, said Egypt had battled to persuade the IMF that reforms must be gradual to maintain social peace.

Unemployment is high in Egypt's poorer rural south, and reform-induced price rises have hit ordinary Egyptians hard in the past year.

Mr. Mubarak, who received a two-minute standing ovation at the start of his speech, said foreign press reports and the local opposition had exaggerated Muslim militant violence and given Egypt a bad image abroad.

The Interior Ministry has said last month's killings were not sectarian but linked to a family feud over a house sale.

Tens of thousands of men, women and children cheered Mr. Mubarak's car on the road to the town hall.

Earlier, Mr. Mubarak formally opened an oil refinery near Assiut with a capacity of 2.5 million tonnes a year.

The plant, which started operating in 1987, now processes 1.8 million tonnes a year of crude oil worth 600 million Egyptian pounds (\$180 million).

Oil Minister Hamdi Al Banbi told reporters the government planned to expand annual capacity to five million tonnes over the next five years to meet rising demand in Upper Egypt.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Afghan president to visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's Interim President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi will begin a state visit to Pakistan on Tuesday, state-run Pakistan Television said on Sunday. It said Mr. Mojaddidi announced his trip in the Afghan capital Kabul during a meeting with Pakistani Manpower Minister Mohammad Ejaz Ul Haq. The television did not say how long Mr. Mojaddidi would stay in Pakistan. It will be Mr. Mojaddidi's first foreign trip since he took power on April 28 after the collapse of the former communist government of President Najibullah. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who made a day-long trip to Kabul on April 29, was the first foreign leader to meet the new government. Mr. Mojaddidi lived in Pakistan during the 14-year Afghan civil war. The television quoted him as telling Mr. Ejaz Ul Haq that Afghanistan wanted to strengthen "brotherly relations" and close cooperation with Pakistan.

Israel upholds patient's right to die

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli court has accepted an audio-taped request by a victim of Alzheimer's disease not to be attached to a life-support system, the patient's lawyer said Sunday. Miriam Zadok, 52, mentally incapacitated and unable to speak, said lawyer Yitzhak Hoshen. She is a resident of a nursing home. Her husband brought the case to court to preempt any moves by doctors to prolong her life. "This is a precedent because now you may write a living will while in a competent state of mind which the doctor must obey while you are incompetent," said Mr. Hoshen. Moshe Telgam, a Tel Aviv district court judge, made the ruling Friday night at a special hearing at his home. Mr. Telgam based his ruling on an audio-tape and a written will made by Mrs. Zadok 18 months ago when she was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and still of sound mind, Mr. Hoshen said. "If for some reason connected to my illness I become unable to communicate and express my desires in the future, I am asking now to allow me to die and not prolong my life by artificial means," Mrs. Zadok said in the written will.

Libya seeks Nigerian support

ABUJA, Nigeria (R) — Libya asked Nigeria, current head of the Organisation of African Unity, on Saturday to support its efforts in seeking a political solution to the Lockerbie plane crash row, a Nigerian government statement said. The statement quoted a special envoy of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi as indicating Libya's preparedness to cooperate with the United Nations over the issue during a meeting with President Ibrahim Babangida in Nigeria's new capital Abuja. The U.N. imposed limited sanctions against Libya on April 15 after Tripoli refused to hand over two men indicted by Britain and the United States for the bombing of a Pan Am flight over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988.

Tremor jolts Turkish Mediterranean town

ISTANBUL (R) — An earth tremor measuring 4.5 on the open-ended Richter scale jolted Turkey's Mediterranean town of Antalya on Sunday but caused no damage or casualties, Istanbul's Kandilli observatory said. The epicentre of the tremor was 550 kilometres south of Istanbul. It followed a tremor on Saturday in the western town of Aydin which measured 4.2 but also hurt no one. More than 485 people were killed in the eastern city of Erzurum in a powerful quake in March. Fifty-six large earthquakes this century have killed more than 70,000 people in Turkey.

Tehran paper slams France

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian newspaper on Sunday criticised France for accepting a member of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq opposition group expelled from Sweden for allegedly taking part in an attack on the Iranian embassy in Stockholm. The English-language Tehran Times said that whenever Third World embassies were attacked in the West, governments adopted a lenient policy towards what it called the "terrorists" under the guise of respect for individual human rights. "It is on the basis of such a lopsided and arrogant view of diplomatic immunity that France grants immunity to a terrorist who has already been condemned in a country like Sweden," the Iranian news agency IRNA said, quoting from the paper. The Iranian embassy in Sweden and several other capitals were attacked by demonstrators last month after Iranian planes attacked a Mujahedeen base in Iraq. The late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini lived in exile in France before returning to lead Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

Beirut customs officers seize cocaine

BEIRUT (R) — Customs officers at Beirut airport foiled an attempt to smuggle in 24 kilograms of pure cocaine, one of the largest cocaine seizures in Lebanon, airport sources said on Sunday. The officers arrested late on Saturday a Lebanese man carrying the drugs hidden in large envelopes in a suitcase. The cocaine was worth an estimated \$1.5 million. The man was coming from Sao Paulo in Brazil. Security officers seized 10 kilograms of pure Colombian cocaine last week flown to Lebanon via Amsterdam for processing and distribution.

Turkish Kurds kill four in village raid

ISTANBUL (R) — Rebel Kurds fighting for independence from Turkey killed two children and two women in a rocket attack on a village, Anadolu news agency said on Sunday. The rebels, members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), escaped after raid on southeastern Dumanli village on Saturday night, the semi-official agency said. The attack brought to 13 the number of people killed in PKK-related weekend violence in the southeast, where the group's eight-year-old insurgency has cost nearly 3,800 lives.

UAE to study war compensation claims

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has set up a committee to seek compensation for damages stemming from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, a Foreign Ministry official said on Sunday. Ghanim Al Mazroui, deputy director in the Ministry's Department of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Affairs, said the committee would start distributing United Nations documents to its citizens seeking war damages.

Iraq: ICRC can look anywhere for Kuwaitis

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has granted the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) unhindered access to prisons, detention camps or "any other spot in the country" to find people Kuwait says are still held by Baghdad.

"Iraq has no objection to letting ICRC officials search for those allegedly reported missing by Kuwait," Dr. Akram Al Witr, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's legal department, said Sunday.

"We are ready to give them immediate access, not only to prisons or detention camps but to any place in Iraq, without any restrictions or conditions on our part," he told Reuters.

Arthur Bisig, head of the ICRC delegation in Iraq said, "Now I can confirm the Iraqi position. We are free to visit any place in Iraq."

The number of Kuwaitis still in Iraq has been in dispute since the Gulf war over the emirate ended last year.

Dr. Witr said more than 4,000 people carrying Kuwaiti passports had reported to ICRC offices in Baghdad. "Of these Kuwait has only accepted 400," he said.

He said Kuwait given Iraq seven different and contradictory lists since the war.

"The first contained names of 11,000 people, then it shrank to 9,000 and they kept squeezing it until they finally settled for 850 names," he said.

The ICRC published the final list in government newspapers in March and appealed for information on the whereabouts of 850 people the Kuwait government said had been missing in Iraq since Baghdad's Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of the emirate.

Dr. Witr disputed Kuwait's

final list. He said that after thorough analysis with ICRC officials it was found that many names were repeated and "many others had already been handed over to Kuwait."

Under Gulf war ceasefire terms, Iraq is obliged to return all Kuwaitis taken from the emirate and scrap its weapons of mass destruction before U.N. sanctions can be eased or lifted.

ICRC officials say more than 6,000 Kuwaitis have been repatriated, including 4,020 soldiers and 2,000 civilians captured and taken to Baghdad, plus 150 civilian who lived in Iraq during the war.

"Iraq wants the issue to be separated from politics and treated in line with international norms and Geneva conventions," Dr. Witr said.

Mr. Bisig said the ICRC would also like the issue to be treated on purely humanitarian grounds — "we want to keep it away from political considerations."

He added: "We need clearly established individual files and apart from a few cases, the Kuwaitis have not done that."

Mr. Bisig said there was also the question of Iraqis missing in Kuwait and the ICRC was keen to follow up on that issue, too.

Dr. Witr said the list of Iraqis reported missing in Kuwait amounted to 60,000 people. "We have informed the ICRC of that and provided the necessary documentation."

He denied Kuwaiti claims that Iraq still held Kuwaiti prisoners. "We have no more Kuwaitis detained in Iraq. Those living here are free. Kuwaiti authorities do not accept them."

Iraq, he said, wanted to close the file on missing Kuwaitis so that "there will be more pretexts to continue with the sanctions."

Three fundamentalists, soldier killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's special forces, backed by helicopter gunships, have stormed a hideout for Muslim fundamentalists south of the capital, and three fundamentalists and a soldier were killed, Algerian media reported on Sunday.

The independent daily Al Watan said the army's special forces on Saturday attacked an empty school used as a refuge by six armed fundamentalists in the mountains of Zbarbar, about 100 kilometres south of Algiers.

The official radio, quoting a government source, said three Muslim fundamentalists and an army parachutist were killed in the gun battle which lasted several hours.

One policeman was injured and the three other fundamentalists managed to flee. Al Watan added. It said the forces seized two Kalashnikov rifles and a gun.

Al Watan said the fundamentalists were part of a "terrorist" ring led by Sheikh Mabrouk who was arrested earlier this month.

Algerian special armed forces and police have been hunting a group of fundamentalists scattered in the mountainous region and near the town of Lakhdaria, 50 kilometres south of the capital, since last Wednesday.

The shootout was at least the fourth in Algiers this month.

On Friday, Algerian forces killed a man and arrested 43 others in a gun battle with Muslim fundamentalists who tried to stop a government-appointed cleric from preaching.

They shot dead four fundamentalists in two separate shootouts last Wednesday.

More than 50 members of the security forces have also been killed in isolated attacks since mid-February after a state of emergency was declared to end Muslim fundamentalists' unrest.

Violence swept Algerian cities and towns and 103 people were killed in January and early February after the army-backed authorities cancelled a general election which the Islamic Salvation Front was on the verge of winning.

The front has since been banned and seven of its senior leaders are due to face military trial next month.

Saudis' servants who claim abuse slated for deportation from U.S.

HOUSTON (AP) — The government is deporting two former servants who accused a Saudi Arabian prince and princess of abusing them, a newspaper reported Saturday.

Sriyani Marian Fernando, 26, of Sri Lanka, and Josephine Aliog, 30, of the Philippines had been employed by Prince Saud Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and Princess Noora at the royal family's quarters at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

The two women said they were in hiding for six months until their story became public and they decided to seek asylum, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The prince, the older brother of Saudi King Fahd, did not return a telephone call Saturday from the Associated Press.

Ms. Fernando said she was "beaten many times" while working for the family in Houston and in Saudi Arabia. She said she was promised \$100 a month but was paid only \$200.

The women were delivered Friday to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) office in Houston, where authorities began deportation proceedings.

An INS spokesman said the deportation process could take months, and that the women would not get their passports back nor be allowed to work.

Jerry Payne, a lawyer for the women, said he was upset with the government's action in the case.

"What is being confirmed here is a way of life that follows no rules — a royal family (that) does what they want to do, to whom they want, whenever they want," he said.

He accused the U.S. government of siding with the Saudis.

The immigration service took a day to bring the women in after the women's complaints became public. Prosecutors said they saw no violations by the Saudis.

A sheriff's deputy who worked as a bodyguard for the Saudi royal family said he was fired in April after he refused orders from Princess Noora to kidnap the escaped servants and return them to the family's two-floor residence.

"She told me to 'track them down and bring them back,'" said Deputy Ronnie Smith.

Garang said to flee as troops advance

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Sudanese government troops pushed towards territory held by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forcing rebel chief John Garang to flee his headquarters, security sources said Sunday.

They said Colonel Garang moved his headquarters from Torit, 120 kilometres east of the Nile in the southern Sudan, to Kajo Kaji, close to the west bank of the river on the Uganda border.

Col. Garang pulled out of Torit as government troops headed towards the town from the North. Aid workers, anticipating fighting, left Torit a week ago, the sources added.

Peace talks between the Sudan government and the rebels to end one of Africa's longest-running civil wars were due to open in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, on Sunday but were postponed until Tuesday.

Ugandan residents in the border area said Sudan government forces were still advancing into SPLA areas. Several towns which had been under SPLA control have fallen since the latest government offensive began some two months ago.

SPLA rebels in the south have been fighting since 1983 for autonomy from government in Khartoum.

Col. Garang's problems have increased by a split in the SPLA, with his opponents breaking away from his group. Both SPLA groups are due to take part in the Abuja talks.

A Sudanese government advance party arrived in Abuja for the talks.

A senior Sudanese diplomat said the advance party would be joined later by the official Khartoum delegation, while the two SPLA factions were expected in Nigeria on Sunday evening.

An official Nigerian statement said the talks, originally scheduled to start on Sunday, would now be opened on Tuesday by Nigerian Foreign Ministry Iko Nwachukwu.

Gunman wounds 2 in Kuwait circus attack

KUWAIT (R) — A gunman wounded a Briton and an Indian when he opened fire at Italian circus performers, the second attack of its kind on foreigners in Kuwait in four days.

An Italian embassy spokesman said a man stepped out of a car on Saturday night in front of the circus ground in the Qadisiyah area and shot at performers with an automatic rifle.

"Before the show started a car was waiting in front of the circus. A man stepped out and then opened fire. He injured a British man and an Indian man," the spokesman said.

Four gunmen shot up a Romanian circus last Tuesday, wounding two performers. Newspaper said one of the circus tents was set ablaze the previous week.

An actor was shot in another attack earlier this month.

Diplomats said it was not yet clear if the attacks were part of any violent campaign against foreigners in Kuwait — home to thousands of Westerners and Asians.

The 20-strong Italian circus troupe has been in the emirate since March.

The local Sawt Al Kuwait newspaper last week quoted an unnamed Interior Ministry official as saying the authorities had a lead on the people behind the attack on the Romanians.

He said it was the work of individuals and not "part of a general trend in the Kuwaiti society."

Some of the local media and diplomats speculate that the shooting of the Romanian circus bus was carried out by Muslim fundamentalists angered by female performers wearing skimpy costumes that break Islamic dress codes.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le jeu des animaux
18:00 Le Monde Sous Marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport Magazine
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Empty Nest
21:10 News in English
22:30 Gold

PRAYER TIMES

03:57 Fajr
05:28 (Sunrise) Duha
12:52 Dhuhur
16:13 Asr
19:36 Maghrib
21:28 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifeth, Tel. 810740
Assommoles of God Church, Tel. 632785.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Area	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	12/22
Aqaba	18/31
Deserts	10/26
Jordan Valley	16/30

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Kayed Halaqa 793522
Dr. Saeed Abu Hatab 649846
Dr. Muhammad Al Shawish 658878
Dr. Bassam Karadshen 796200
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asoma pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 625672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 640445
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660

DRBID:
Dr. Nabil Abu Ota (—)
Al Shama pharmacy (773825)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Emergency 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Blood Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 77121
Highway Police 843402
Public Security Department 609390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/332
Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Ann 64441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisat 664171/4
Shmeisat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsen Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 661775/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 75111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 60240/50
Amal Hospital 674135

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel: (06)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:15 Samra (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)

Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
Rm Sina Hospital (09)980732
Al Hana Modern Hospital (09)990990
DRBID:
Princess Susan Hospital (02)275005
Oncology Hospital (02)27275
Rm Al Nefes Hospital (02)947100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (09)914111

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:35 Cairo (MS)
12:25 Moscow, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
16:50 Istanbul (TK)
16:50 Rome, Beirut (AZ)
20:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Belgrade, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, New York (RJ)
13:00 Moscow, New York (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
11:25 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (red)	700/600
Banana	300/450
Banana (Mukammur)	350/500
Beans	300/250
Broad beans	320/230
Cabbage	200/150
Carrot	200/150
Cauliflower	280/200
Cucumber (large)	30/40
Cucumber (small)	150/100
Eggplant	150/70
Garlic (green)	400/300
Lemon	580/420
Marrow (large)	100/50
Marrow (small)	170/120
Onion (dry)	140/80
Onion (green)	150/100
Oranges	300/250
Pear	400/300
Pepper (hot)	220/170
Pepper (sweet)	280/170
Potato	200/120
Radish	150/100
Sage	600/500
Tomato	270/180

Jordanian medical team accompanying pilgrims leaves for Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — The first Jordanian medical team this year to accompany pilgrims to Mecca left Sunday for Saudi Arabia to provide medical care to Jordanian pilgrims and others.

Bidding farewell to the team were Health Minister Aref Bataineh, Health Ministry Secretary-General Adnan Abbas and Awqaf Ministry Secretary-General Ahmad Helayyel.

Addressing the team, Dr. Bataineh called on them to do their utmost to help Jordanian pilgrims and any other pilgrims who seek their assistance. He also requested them to live up to the responsibilities entrusted with them.

Dr. Helayyel also addressed the team members and reviewed the noble meanings of pilgrimages. He called on them to provide the best services to pilgrims.

The team comprises 38 members, including 11 doctors, a number of nurses and technicians. The team is equipped with ambulance cars and medical equipment needed to facilitate their work.

Mutah University to establish minerals, geology departments

KARAK (Petra) — Mutah University President Muhammad Adnan Al Bakhit Sunday said the university was planning to establish two new departments, one for minerals and the second for geology.

Dr. Bakhit noted that the university is currently undertaking studies for establishing an agriculture faculty. At a meeting with the Director General of the Jordan Cement Factories Company, Hatem Halawani, held at Rashtadieh in Karak Saturday, Dr. Bakhit called on major industrial institutions in the governorates of south Jordan to forge closer cooperation with the university with a view to formulating practical policies to provide a better life for citizens through setting priorities for pressing needs and utilising the resources available in the region.

Dr. Bakhit pointed out that the university will issue a specialised periodical in a bid to contribute to developing the production and technical process. He pledged the

university's support for the national institutions in the south and said that the university was willing to benefit from the expertise of these major companies and that it would organise field visits for university students to link theoretical study with practical implementation.

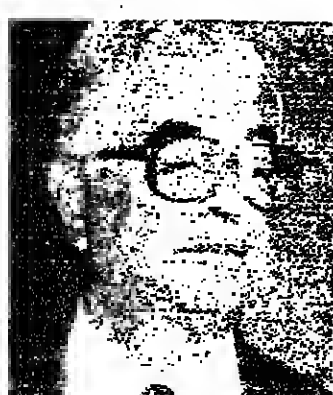
The Director general of South Cement Factory, who attended the meeting, said the company was interested in developing managerial skills and finding solutions to some problems resulting from the climate.

A number of engineers working in the factories voiced hope that the university will implement engineering experiments at the factories and hold specialised mining courses there.

The meeting ended with an agreement for forming a technical committee grouping representatives for the university and the cement factories. The committee will be entrusted with a programme of action for linking university education with industrial institutions.

FAO meeting in Tehran approves proposal to hold conference in Amman in 1994

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional conference organised by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Tehran in the past week has approved a Jordanian proposal to hold a general meeting in Amman in 1994 to discuss agriculture-related issues in the Near East region, according to Agriculture Minister Faysal Khasawneh.



Faysal Khasawneh

In a statement upon his return to Amman from the FAO meeting in the Iranian capital, the minister said that the participants discussed issues related to water policies and water use in agriculture and called for a continuation of exchange of expertise, information and more cooperation among the Near Eastern countries in terms of research and training and in means of protecting water resources and the soil.

The minister said that the conference stressed the need for the countries of the Near East to coordinate their efforts in tackling animal diseases, laboratory work and in the production of vaccines.

These measures could be conducted through a FAO regional centre located in Amman, said the minister.

Dr. Khasawneh noted that the conference, which concluded

meeting last Thursday, called for a conference to be held in Amman in the coming year to discuss regional economic and social policies.

The conference recommended that the private and the public sectors, be helped to undertake further responsibilities towards promoting food production, said the minister.

The Jordanian delegation to the meeting presented a recommendation to the FAO director "on ways to help farmers in the occupied territories in the face of Israeli inhuman practices against them," said the minister but did not disclose details. He said that Jordan demanded that FAO coordinate its work with other U.N. organisations with regard to agriculture in the occupied Arab land and the demand was strongly supported by Syria, Iraq and Iran.

A total of 23 countries from the Near East and North Africa took part in the conference, said Dr. Khasawneh who was accompanied to the meeting by senior expert from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Jordan, Bulgaria open talks on trade



Muhammad Saqqaf

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Bulgaria opened talks here Sunday aimed at promoting the exchange of trade and increasing Jordanian phosphate sales, fertilizer and cement sales to Sofia through barter deals between the two countries.

Mr. Saqqaf said that Jordan hopes to import more Bulgarian meat in exchange for more sales to Bulgaria of Jordanian phosphate, potash, cement and fertilizers.

The head of the Bulgarian team expressed hope that the strong ties between the two countries would be further enhanced through bolstered trade, noting that Jordan's markets are very important for Bulgarian goods.

The Bulgarian team called on the Jordanian private sector to make investments in Bulgaria in light of the new political changes in that country and the opening of the free Bulgarian markets. The head of the team extended an invitation to the minister to visit Bulgaria for more talks with the government in economic and supply fields.

Along with Romania and Turkey, Bulgaria has been one of the main suppliers of fresh meat to the Jordanian market. One kilo of Bulgarian in the local market costs JD2 compared with more than JD3.5 for one kilo of locally produced lamb meat.

The talks were conducted here through a visiting Bulgarian team which met with Minister of Supply Muhammad Saqqaf with whom they had a general review of trade between the two countries with particular emphasis on meat imports from Bulgaria.

The Ministry of Supply plans to offer the private sector merchants in Jordan the freedom to import any quantities of fresh meat from Bulgaria and will issue licences shortly to allow this operation to take place, announced the minister at the meeting.

He demanded that Bulgaria continue to supply Jordan with the same good quality of fresh meat calling on Sofia to reduce the meat prices so that more imports can be made and more trade can be conducted between the two countries.

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Jordan celebrates 46th year of independence

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan today marks the 46th anniversary of its independence from Britain. The Kingdom achieved its independence in 1946, thus fulfilling one of the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt which aimed at liberating Arab countries from foreign domination. The Great Arab Revolt was launched by the late King Hussein Ben Ali early this century.

The anniversary reminds Jordanians of their task of enhancing cohesion and national unity in the face of dangers posed by the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories and the expansionist Israeli policies at the expense of Arab countries.

On this dear occasion, Jordanians also recall the achievements Jordan has made under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein who dedicated his life to serve his homeland, people and the Arab Nation.

Jordan's commitment to pan-Arab causes, which has become a Jordanian principled approach, stems out of its firm conviction in the unity of Arabs and the need to further the Arab Nation's higher interests through safeguarding its freedom, independence, security and solving its disputes by peaceful means.

The late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, proclaimed Jordan, on May 25, 1946, a sovereign, independent state. Since then Jordan has charted an objective policy, derived from the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, and has turned it into a base for its moves at both the Arab and international levels.

When King Hussein assumed power in Jordan, he started consolidating the pillars of independence and building modern Jordan through creating the right circumstances for building in all aspects of life.

One of the great achievements of King Hussein is that he built unique Jordanian citizens, fully equipped, physically, mentally, culturally and spiritually, to cope with the latest developments in the world.

Through the positive interaction between the leadership of the country and its citizens, Jordan has been able to make significant achievements since the proclamation of independence.

On the eve of this anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, issued a statement recounting Jordan's modern history and referring to democratic rule in the country as one of the major achievements accomplished under the leadership of King Hussein. It quoted the King as



stating that despite the influx of Palestinian refugees, displaced people and the expatriates returning to the country over the past 45 years, Jordan has been able to establish and then protect its gains and its achievements and to provide for its people the basic services on equal levels.

Education, social services and water and electric supplies have been provided to all regions and a general atmosphere of freedom, tolerance and brotherly feeling is felt all over the country, Petra said. It also said that the country, which boasts of its Parliament and its democratic rule, gives equality and freedom to all men and women and offers the public freedom to form political parties and to openly and freely express views.

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CBJ expects to commence issuing licences to money-changers in June

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Money-changers could be back in operation in Jordan next month after a 30-month hiatus.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has received up to 120 applications for money-changer's licences following the enactment of a related law after endorsement by a Royal Decree last month, CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi said Saturday.

A special panel is studying the applications and the first licences are expected to be issued after the cabinet sets the licensing fees, possibly next week, Dr. Nabulsi said.

Most of the applications are for the third category of operations which, according to the law, require a JD 250,000 capital, he said. The other two categories require JD 500,000 and JD 1 million capital each, with permission for a broad range of operations.

Another category is set aside exclusively for operations limited to changing banknotes and travellers cheques near the Kingdom's land borders.

The new licencees have to abide by the daily exchange rate set by the Central Bank. Each licence will specifically mention the range of operations that the licensee is permitted to conduct in line with the category based on capital, including transfer of funds abroad as permitted within CBJ regulations, Dr. Nabulsi said.

"We have completed work on these parameters and are now awaiting the cabinet to set the licensing fees," the CBJ governor told the Jordan Times.

All exchange houses except those operated by commercial banks were ordered closed and liquidated in February 1989 by the then government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

The money-changers were accused of violating CBJ regulations and operating beyond the scope permitted under the law as well as clandestinely transferring funds abroad without permission. Subsequently, the 70 or so firms were liquidated, thus limiting all money-changing operations to commercial banks.

The new law, which incorporates a series of "safety valves" — including guarantees to the Central Bank worth 30 per cent of the capital — and stringent measures against violators, was initiated by Dr. Nabulsi, who took over the helm of the CBJ in mid-1989.

"No money-changer will be allowed to accept deposits from the public," Dr. Nabulsi said Saturday. "That's something we will not tolerate at any cost and violators would face severe penalty, including the immediate cancellation of licence."

Cancellation of licence also means forfeiture of the 30 per cent of capital deposit with the Central Bank.

Dr. Nabulsi said the mandatory capital deposit could be furnished either as a guarantee from a commercial bank "in language acceptable to the CBJ," or in treasury bonds.

Many pre-1989 money-changers used to accept public deposits at interest rates much higher than the commercial banks and diverted the funds to speculation and other activities in the money market. In several cases, losses sustained in such operations led to the collapse of the money-changer and subsequently to public losses.

One particular case in point was that of Saliba Shukri Rizk and Saliba Rizk, once reputed as the biggest money-changers in Jordan. The firm collapsed in 1985 when it lost several million dinars in transactions and speculation outside the Kingdom and the leading partner committed suicide.

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Municipality to launch reorganisation of billboards on key Amman roads soon

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Greater Amman Municipality is currently finalising a new set of regulations to govern setting up billboards on streets and highways in a manner that takes into account clearer visibility for driving safety, better spacing between the billboards, nicer and more harmonious view of the advertising area and a higher degree of reorganisation on locations as well as tighter controls on sizes and distances from a pavement.

According to Yousef Abu Salem, the head of the section which issues various kinds of licences at the Greater Amman Municipality, the new regulations were made necessary by the disproportionate sizes of the billboards and their locations as many advertisements were concentrated in key areas of Amman. He noted that the municipality was "fully aware of the chaotic, unsystematic and unpleasant scenes that the billboards have caused in the capital, and was moving quickly to reorganise the set up of the billboards."

"The advertisers are licensed to set up billboards for one year only and licences are renewed according to prevailing regulations. As such, billboards are not permanent in specific areas and can be relocated or even cancelled if an advertiser fails to pay the annual fees," Mr. Abu Salem pointed out.

Noting that the municipality charges only JD 10 per square metre and that billboards range between 4x2 and 4x8 in size each, Mr. Abu Salem

stressed that the municipality was solely trying to provide a service to the economy and had no aim to make profit or "beef up" its revenues.

Mr. Abu Salem emphasised that some 520 billboards, mostly spread on the main streets and highways in western Amman, serve the needs of both the seller and buyer of a product or a service and he said it was his own personal opinion that the number was very low to reflect the national economic image of the Kingdom.

He mentioned that the municipality had also looked into the possibility of copying other major cities in the world by placing 10-15 electronic boards at specific key locations in Amman to expand advertising in the most modern way but no decision has been taken yet towards this approach.

Mr. Abu Salem gave the following rough estimates of the billboard coverage of Amman's roads:

— 103 on the airport road.
— 55 on the university road.
— 43 on Zahran Street (from Ist Circle-Jabal Amman up to 8th Circle).
— 23 on Mecca Street.
— 13 on Wadi Sagra Road (circle).
— 9 Amman-Zarqa Highway.
— 6 on Gardens Street (Safetyway area).

The municipality official said he expected more billboards to appear in the months ahead even if the new regulations entail higher charges or stricter specifications on sizes, distances and locations of the billboards.

Noting that there was a one-month-old temporary freeze on granting new licences for

billboards, Mr. Abu Salem said some 20 applications were in the pipeline pending the issuance of new regulations within a few weeks.

Mr. Abu Salem was asked about the reasons that led to the recent haphazard erection of billboards in Amman. He replied, "According to Regulation No. 57 of 1984, general guidelines were established with regard to setting up billboards. The guidelines covered the size, the shape of a board and other minor conditions but were short of controlling more important aspects which the public is now complaining of."

"Moreover, the guidelines were so general that the directors of each of Greater Amman's 20 areas implemented them according to his own understanding and interpretation," Mr. Abu Salem explained.

He elaborated that the new regulations would be more specific and would result in less congestion of boards in a given area and more harmonious erections to eliminate awkward and unpleasant positionings. However, the municipality would not interfere with the billboards as long as they comply with the moral code of the Kingdom.

Mr. Abu Salem joked that in all Third World countries events usually take place first and then authorities rush to contain the activities which snowball afterwards. He said that that was the case with billboards which were privately and independently set up by a few businesses many years ago and now have grown to a level requiring controls and regulations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by five Malaysian artists at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Lebewleh.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolls and Maimra Al Tunisiyya at the Orthodox Club.
- ★ Exhibition of embroidery and hand-made items at the Philadelphia Hotel lobby — (8 a.m. - 11 p.m.).

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ali Taleb and Rafe' Nadri at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman at Alia Art Gallery.

FILMS

- ★ French film entitled "Apres la Guerre" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

ESCWA to extend relocation in Amman

AMMAN (AP) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), based in Baghdad until the Gulf war, will stay in Amman until the end of August 1993, an agency source said Sunday.

After the one-year extension, the ESCWA member states will decide on a permanent headquarters.

The U.N. Regional Commission currently employs 300 people, of which around 200 are international staff and the rest Jordanians.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is also said to have agreed on holding ESCWA's 16th Ministerial Session in Jordan between Aug. 30 and Sept. 3.

"Some diplomats are relying on the next ministerial session to add more reconciliation between the Middle East and Gulf countries," a diplomatic source said.

According to the diplomatic source, the acceptance of the Gulf states ministers to attend this meeting is a sign of "rapprochement between Jordan, Yemen and Iraq on one side and the Gulf monarchies on the other."

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Strategy requires implementation, funds

THE JORDANIAN national strategy on environment which was unveiled before His Majesty King Hussein Saturday appears to be a comprehensive plan aimed at preventing and combating environmental damage to the country. It remains to be seen, however, how effective these measures will be in saving the Kingdom's air, water and land from pollution, deforestation and ill-planned economic and industrial development.

The fact that the strategy which was spearheaded by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment took two years to prepare and involved over 170 Jordanian experts in various fields may offer a fresh hope that the government is serious after all about putting an end to the vicious encroachments on Jordan's environment. Not that the threats to our environment are not already well-known and documented. As a matter of fact, the pollution to the country's rivers, dam reservoirs and even Aqaba, the only outlet to the sea that we have, has been unfolding before our very eyes for so long that we have probably grown sceptical about the existence of the necessary political will to do something really meaningful about them.

The Marine Scientific Centre in Aqaba has been voicing concern about the creeping threats to marine life in the coral reefs of the gulf through not only industrial wastes dumped straight into the sea but also from industrial dusts from in and around the city that constantly and ominously fall on the waters of Aqaba and its environs.

Surely it has not escaped the attention and scrutiny of the experts that drafted this new Jordanian strategy that Jordanian streets are also heavily polluted by all sorts of gas emissions including black smoke from a variety of vehicles without stirring any reaction from the Department of Environment at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs. If such a simple source of pollution has yet to be addressed, what is going to persuade the people that this time around the concerned Jordanian authorities are determined to reverse the tide?

There are voluminous reports already on what needs to be done about the country's environment. Maybe the concerned authorities had needed a more in-depth reporting and analysis on the subject. Now that they have it, the entire country would be watching how the government is going to implement its prescriptions for cleaner and healthier environment. In this respect, the country needs to know all that is needed to know about the economic costs of this new strategy. There are no indications that this dimension has been addressed to the satisfaction of our economists and if it has, it was not made public. The price tag of such urgently needed measures to cleanse the country from all sorts of pollutions should not stop us from going ahead with the plan. Rather, it should be an impetus for the government to seek external help for this purpose especially now that there will be a world environment conference in Brazil next month. In anticipation of the Earth Conference, the Jordanian environmental strategy should be complemented with this needed price tag in order to solicit the required support from the rich, industrialised world for its implementation. After all the Earth Summit in June is convened to consider ways and means to help countries help themselves in dealing with environmental concerns.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WHAT IS happening in southern Lebanon and Israel's new threats to Syria for its position with regard to the armed militia in that area is something that is worthy of study, said Al Rai daily Sunday. Israel is currently escalating its aggression on southern Lebanon and is launching media campaigns against Syria despite the fact that it continues to occupy Arab land in Lebanon in defiance of the U.N. and its resolutions, said the paper. It said that this threat to Syria is so serious that it could pave the ground for a new act of aggression on Syrian troops in Lebanon, triggering an all-out war, warned the paper. It said that such an adventure could have very serious consequences on the peace process and the whole situation in the region. The co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process are duty-bound to pressure Israel into refraining from such escalation and should force the Jewish state to pull out its troops from South Lebanon, the paper demanded. It also called on the Arab countries to wake up to the new threats and take collective measures to deter Israel's arrogant behaviour. It said that the Arab countries should adopt a very firm and united stand in facing Israel and its continued aggression on the Arab World.

Sawt Al Shaab daily Sunday also dwelt on the current situation in southern Lebanon describing as provocative Israel's continued escalation of tension in that region. Israel's continued acts of aggression on the civilian population and its threats to Syria at this point in time are bound to have very serious consequences on the prospect of peace, said the daily. It said that the Shamir government seems to be cornered by the world community which demands that it succumb to the requirements of a just peace and is being exposed worldwide for its continued drive to build settlements on Arab lands, said the paper. The ongoing bilateral and multilateral negotiations have proved to the world that it is Israel which is obstructing the establishment of peace; hence the pressure from the world community on Israel, the paper pointed out. It said that the U.S. administration is turning a blind eye to what is happening in southern Lebanon while the other Arab states are turning a deaf ear to the cries of pain coming out from the people of southern Lebanon and the Lebanese governments call for help. Above all, the U.N. Security Council, which is quick to take action in any other world events, is now keeping silent about the whole affair, the paper added. It said that Lebanon is a victim of Israel's atrocities and has been abandoned by the Arab countries in its continued war against Israel.

Weekly Political Pulse

New blood is needed to revive slumbering ACC

By Waleed Sadi

In case we have forgotten, the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen created in 1989 with much fanfare is not yet dead and buried. All it needs is another determined effort to resurrect it from its dormancy and state of oblivion. And this is the time to do just that in view of the widespread disarray among the Arab countries and especially in the aftermath of the Gulf war. And the fact that Baghdad is still ostracised by the other members of the ACC is no reason to keep it in abeyance for much longer.

There is a consensus among the Arabs that the Arab World needs to regroup after its unity has been dealt a death blow by the consequences of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. What better way to attain that noble aim than to breathe new life into Arab sub-regional groupings that promised to usher in a new era into the Arab order? The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is well and alive and the degree of cooperation and coordination among its six member states is really commendable and makes it the envy of the rest of the Arab countries. It will be also remembered that the ACC came into being not as a sub-regional Arab union that runs counter to the GCC or the North African Arab states, but rather as a complementary assembly of Arab states drawn together by special national and regional considerations.

For a while, the intentions of the leaders of the four states that formed the ACC were unduly a subject of scepticism and cynicism and viewed as a grouping of Arab governments with hostile intentions toward the GCC countries. The Gulf war proved the fallacy of the premature submission that the ACC countries harbour ill intentions to the Arab Gulf states and that it came into existence as a counter weight to them. For starters, Cairo spearheaded the Arab effort, both diplomatic and military, to abort the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait and had no hesitation to pour its wrath on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his regime over the crisis even though Baghdad was a founding member of the ACC. Jordan, on the other hand, took another stand that aimed to abort the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait by inter-Arab peaceful means, a posture that put it, for a while at least, diametrically opposed to Egypt.

But now this is history that can serve as a launching pad for a new beginning based on the lessons drawn from the painful experiences of the last couple of years. This new start can be kicked off with the revitalisation of the defunct ACC on new, sounder and wider basis. For one thing, Syria needs to be integrated into the ACC formula. There is no escape from the

conclusion that Syria is still a regional power capable of playing pivotal roles in the shaping of a new Arab order. One of the weaknesses of the old ACC structure was perhaps the absence of Damascus from the ACC fold at a time when its position, both geographical and political, falls squarely within the ACC. It is more natural and logical to have Syria within the ACC than to continue to have Yemen within its ranks. The Yemeni membership, it will be remembered, caused considerable consternation in the Arab Gulf region and unnecessarily touched their sensitivities. On that score, perhaps it would be advisable to reintegrate Yemen in the region to which it belongs rather than to juxtapose it to the region of the ACC countries. In the same vein, Lebanon may also be a natural candidate for membership to the new ACC. There is no other logical place for Lebanon, within the various sub-regional Arab association of states, than the ACC. The only remaining stumbling bloc is the question of what to do with Iraq in the wake of the Gulf war. This sticking point needs to be put on the agenda of the first ever meeting by the heads of state of the new ACC. Sooner or later, Iraq will regain its natural position within ACC. After all, it was not Iraq per se which was condemned for the occupation of Kuwait, but rather its regime.

Journalists say Israeli media shackled

By Colleen Siegel
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Israeli politicians have been accused of "sanitising" television news and entertainment programmes, manipulating the media and endangering freedom of speech.

The Orwellian charge comes from Israeli journalists and media analysts. They are incensed at what they call blatant interference in the broadcast media by a government facing a stiff challenge in next month's general election.

A row erupted after the state-owned Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA) switched a popular TV news magazine from its prime-time Friday evening slot thereby halving its audience.

Ministers said the programme had sabotaged the ruling Likud Party's election chances through its reports. They concerned alleged corruption in Ariel Sharon's Housing Ministry and what the programme called cold-blooded killing of Palestinians by undercover army units.

Journalists and media analysts say this case is just the tip of the iceberg. They accuse the government of using a range of manipulation techniques and intimidation to get journalists to censor themselves or risk losing their job.

"The government invented a doublespeak, a special white-washed language, to hide reality," said author and former newsman David Grossman. "Worse is the temptation to self-censorship."

Dan Caspi, communications lecturer at Israel's Open University, says many issues critical to Israel's future are consistently not presented in full.

"For example, through subtle mechanisms the political establishment reduced the flow of information about what happens in the (occupied) territories. No censor was needed," he said.

Israel views itself as a western-style democracy, but it is believed to be the only one to have a

full-time military censor vetting security-related reports by local and foreign journalists.

The authorities say military censorship is essential because Israel is still officially at war with all its neighbours except Egypt.

Journalists point to the IBA, which rules all electronic media except army radio, as a prime example of politicisation.

The IBA is modelled on the British Broadcasting Corporation but with some crucial differences. Besides a seven-member board of directors it has a 31-member plenary body. The members of

both bodies are chosen according to party.

"It's a kind of mini-Knesset (parliament)," said Elihu Katz, professor of communications and sociology at Hebrew University.

The IBA sometimes orders television and radio editors to adjust news presentation to fit the ruling party line, journalists say.

For example, Likud is committed to holding all land captured in the 1967 Middle East war, so editors were told that Arabic place names should be replaced by Hebrew ones.

Journalists also censor them-

selves. Mr. Grossman backed self-censorship and was fired from Israel Radio in 1988 when he insisted on leading his new-cast with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's declaration of an independent state.

He was reinstated by order of the attorney general but soon quit. "I did not want to work in such a system," he said.

A young radio journalist who requested anonymity tells of advice from senior reporters.

"Never say 'Israel security zone in Southern Lebanon,' just say 'security zone,' never say the

last three words of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine or the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; never say the army 'clamped' a curfew rather it 'imposed' one," the reporter said.

He said on one had to tell him never to use the terms "West Bank" and "occupied territories."

The radio favours "Judea and Samaria" and "the administered territories."

"People were informally approaching me. It involves the big guys from putting it on paper. That's the worst," he said.

At the start of the Palestinian

revolt in the occupied territories in 1987, the IBA banned protest songs about it by Israeli pop stars Si Himan Nurit Galron and Hava Alberstein. The ban was overturned, but the songs are still not broadcast.

"Israel Radio doesn't put that song on the air. They chose a very political way out," said Si Himan.

Likud IBA member Shlomo Kor denied political censorship at the IBA. He accused television of being leftist.

"The television has to learn it is the television of the state of Israel and not an arm of Arab propaganda," Mr. Kor said.

Clinton eclipsed as primary season nears end

By Irwin Arief
Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO — Bill Clinton should be floating on air as he nears his goal of winning the Democratic Party's presidential nomination but instead he finds the American people are ignoring him.

A spate of recent polls show him in third place nationally behind Republican President George Bush and likely independent candidate Ross Perot. A CNN-USA Today poll released on Thursday showed Mr. Perot was even with President Bush at 35 per cent each, while Mr. Clinton was running third at 25 per cent.

At this point in the 1988 campaign, then Democratic frontrunner Michael Dukakis was peaking in the polls against then-Vice President Bush.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The Arkansas Governor continues to crisscross the country, trying to charm voters and earnestly spouting his 10-point plans for just about everything. But even he admits he has problems connecting with the electorate and frankly admits his message "is certainly not getting across."

Often it seems as if his campaign has been sucked into a black hole from which no light can escape.



Bill Clinton



Ross Perot

He blames the situation on a range of problems, including several outside of his control — for example, that the nomination fight is all but over and thus not fascinating, and that Americans' disgust with politics has reached record highs.

"I'm just a lousy sound-bite politician," he says. "I'm not very good on the evening news, thinking of that 8.7 seconds you get, on the average, to bullet through something that stands for what you're really doing."

For example, when asked about Vice President Dan Quayle's criticism of the "Murphy Brown" TV character who had a baby out of wedlock, Mr. Clinton delivered a lengthy and thoughtful critique of the vice president's political philosophy.

"It is not enough for America's leaders to change channels. We need to change course," he concluded of what was, after all, only a temper over a TV programme.

Mr. Perot, who has somehow managed to monopolise the election spotlight lately while looking as if he were trying to avoid it, was asked the same question.

His clipped response: "Only in America would that be front page news." He also called the debate goofy.

Many media pundits partial to Mr. Clinton for his thoughtful approach to the issues have contempt for Mr. Perot, who appears in public almost exclusively on TV talk shows and relishes tormenting those who dare challenge his vague policies. Yet Mr. Perot has been re-

warded with ever-growing popularity, as measured by opinion polls, while Mr. Clinton fades from view.

Even when the focus is on campaign critiques, Mr. Clinton is often shunted aside — this time in favour of Mr. Bush, who remains, after all, the president, though his declining ratings sometimes barely beat Mr. Clinton's.

But with just weeks left before the end of the 1992 primary election season and the beginning of the Democratic National Convention in New York City on July 13, this year's front-runner is increasingly relegated to the inside pages.

Party strategists blame Mr. Clinton for lacking the charisma needed to galvanise voters, for failing to break new ground with powerful speeches and ideas and for failing to draw blood from his eventual opponent with bold attacks on the president.

But they concede that Mr. Perot is a big part of his problem. "With Perot in the race, he doesn't seem as relevant as he might have been without him. And Perot also keeps him from focusing on Bush," Democratic analyst Boh Neuman told Reuters.

"He's in the dark because there's no real reason to pay attention to him," Mr. Neuman added. "He's saying a lot of things that deserve to be said, but who cares? I just don't think there's a lot of interest out there."

LETTERS

Better trot than hurt

To the Editor:

I was alarmed to read that Maha Addasi, in her weekend column of May 21-22, was apparently disappointed not to see any horses going faster than a walk in the Siq on her recent visit to Petra. The romantic notion of the "horses we read about in books on which heroes gallop, sweep their heroines off their feet, and disappear into the horizon..." is all very well in the imagination, but certainly not in the narrow winding Siq which, first, usually full of people walking as well as riding, and, second, full of stones which do not exactly make the best surface on which to speed on equine or human feet!

I must point out that the horses are there to take tourists to view the scenery and not to be galloped about. The horses work hard enough all day, and many of them have a long way to go home at the end of it, having come several miles early in the morning. They do not all live "on the spot."

If tourists want to go faster, then they should go to one of the riding clubs in Aqaba or Amman. Surely, riding slowly is the best way to see the Siq, and many people want to keep stopping to take photos anyway. Most tourists have never been on a horse before and are therefore extremely unbalanced and could not cope with more than a slow walk. Horses can only go at the same speed as their riders, and tourists are not supposed to ride freely to avoid accidents. More than one horse has been fatally injured because of irresponsible tourists galloping off on their own when quite incapable of controlling their mounts, costing owners a lot of money to replace the animals. This is a great danger to other tourists as well.

I would ask all tourists with romantic ideas a bout alloping off in the breeze, to forget them in Petra and respect the old saying "Safety first." If you ride, go at a walk and be led please.

Chris Larter,
P.O. Box 140588,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Jordan's exhibits 'help enhance the image of the country and its people, rectify certain misconceptions'

Expo '92 — a free-spirited, uninhibited world

By Nur Sati in Seville

The long road into the Expo site (the Seville universal exposition) makes visitors enter a world of luxuriant vegetation. Heading left, the scenery is transformed into countless buildings where different countries have displayed their treasures.

Along this particular road are the pavilions of South Africa and Papua New Guinea. Pushing through the crowds and passing by the Red Cross pavilion, one can choose to keep walking and see the endless queues at the Japanese pavilion — a popular wooden building — or the Chinese one where, just inside the entrance, there is a tapestry of the Great Wall.

Very close, on the "Avenida de Descubrimientos" (Route of Discoveries) is the Jordanian pavilion in what is known as the Arab building, encompassing the Arab League, Syria and Egypt. In Jordan's pavilion the ground work and finishing touches dominate the atmosphere in preparation for Jordan's national day, May 25.

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath will attend Jordan's national day festivities. The festivities will reflect vivid images of culture and arts for a period of one week. The Royal Jordanian folklore troupe will perform traditional songs and dances. The Jordanian Armed Forces' band, numbering 140 people, will march through the streets of the Expo city. Included among the festivities is a concert by a young Jordanian pianist, Rula Nabeel. All these festivities will only add to the attraction of the Jordanian pavilion itself.

The entrance to the Jordanian pavilion is a replica of the Petra Siq which meanders to a relief of the Treasury. A Biblical map of mosaic portrays the Jordan River, Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. Following is a tent containing traditional crafts, the last section of the pavilion is a photographic gallery depicting modern life in Jordan.

Estimations by the National Jordanian Committee for the Seville universal exposition put the figure of visitors at 18,000 daily. Mostly from Spain, France, Sweden and Holland, the visitors leave the Jordanian pavilion extremely gratified, particularly after the walk through the Siq and into the Treasury of Petra.

"The Jordanian pavilion puts you in the mood of the land," said Huygle Brigitte, a visiting nurse from Belgium. "The little that I knew about Jordan was its politics. Now I have a different feeling about the country — its culture."

Another visitor, after having seen the pavilion, commented that he was looking at the beginnings of mankind. "What makes the pavilion so interesting is its antiquity. This is where humanity began," said a businessman from France.

The most popular displays are the reproduction of Petra and the mosaics because "it shows hard work and a great work of art," according to a visitor.

Jordan's pavilion has been successful from every perspective, said Dr. Mazen Armouti, Jordan's commissioner general for the Expo. On the one hand, there is an unprecedented vivid imitation of culture and civilisation. On the other hand, there is Jordan's presence in itself and the form in which it is presented. "Unlike many countries, we have a strong and almost totally Jordanian effort," he said.

More significant is that the country's participation gave Jordan the occasion to project the Kingdom and its culture through various parallel efforts in terms of tackling the media, locally and internationally, and the promotion of Jordan's policies and tourism through printed materials and media presentations. "I feel strongly that Jordan's presence has, through the pavilion, helped enhance the image of the country and its people. It also served to rectify certain misconceptions and even some preconceived ideas and stereotypes," Dr. Armouti said.

The international press as a whole has shown interest in Jordan's pavilion. The Spanish television "Canal Sur" pro-

duced a 15 minute documentary on the pavilion and its objectives which are: To assert the true image of Jordan; to attract more attention and understanding to Jordan and its people; to augment a sympathetic view and in the process try to rectify some of the misunderstandings.

The Expo is the greatest event of its kind this century, Dr. Armouti said. Some countries are more tuned to the technological themes. Others chose culture and communications, like Jordan. Still other countries opted for a museum-

oriented presentation while some had a more commercialised bazaar-type display. There are a few countries, however, according to Dr. Armouti, "who missed the point altogether," they got bogged down in the touristic syndrome.

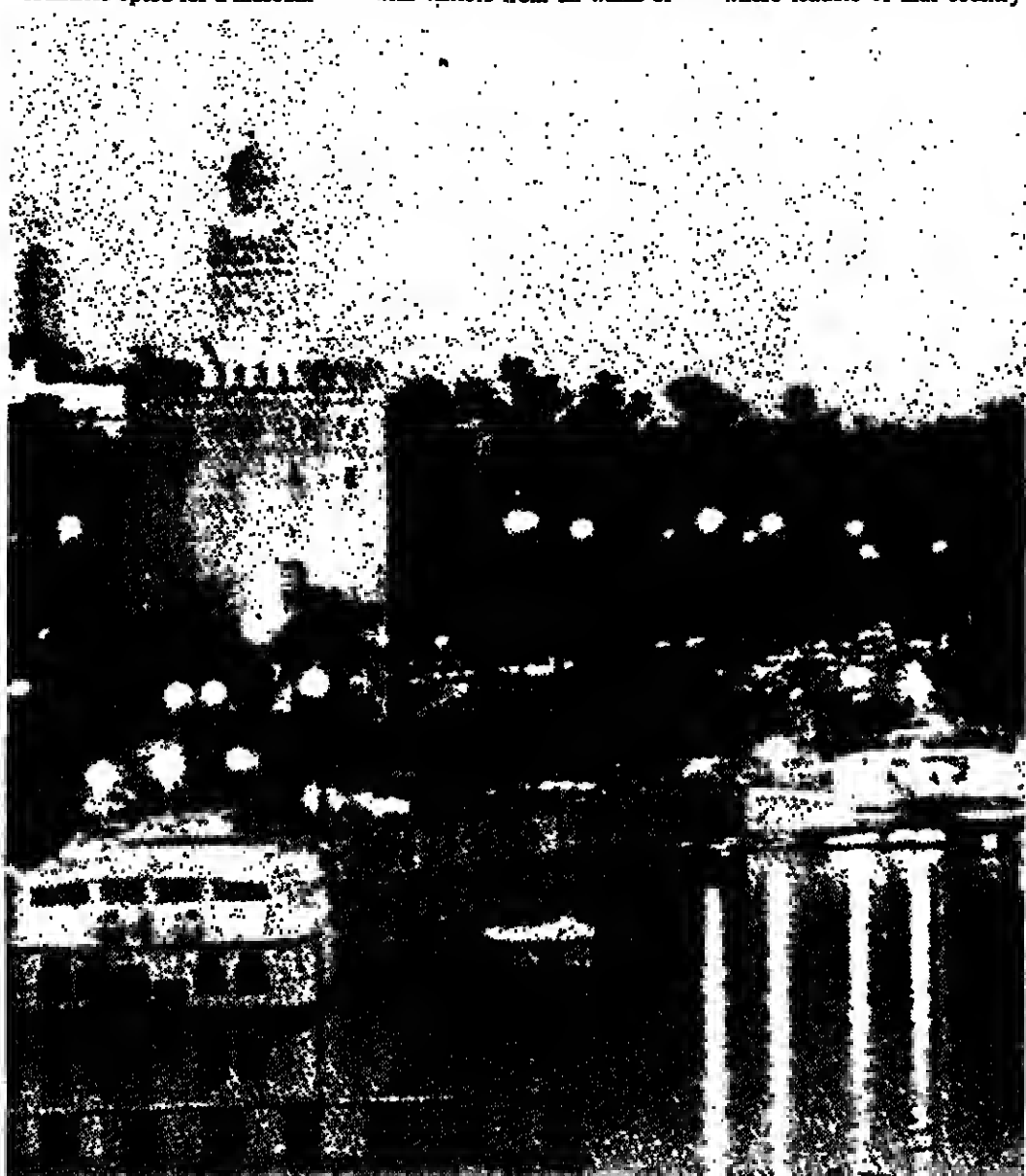
"By any yardstick, it is the greatest event of this century, as an international forum for interchange and dialogue. It has a healthy dose of culture and human interaction," Dr. Armouti said.

The Expo site is swarming with visitors from all walks of

life. Every now and then electric cars pass through the crowds — these are also visitors but who are too tired to walk. At every other corner there is a Mexican or African or American band, just outside or near their respective pavilions, attempting to attract as many people as possible.

From April 20 till May 23 the number of visitors had reached 5,940,000.

Almost every day one country or another celebrates its national day at "El Palenque" where leaders of that country



View from Seville

attend a ceremony and festivities which carry on through the day.

One of the most successful is the wooden structure of the Japanese pavilion where, just outside, the visitors are received by a make-believe group of Japanese men, women and children, representing its population.

The French pavilion receives numerous people daily. The Swedish one is more commercialised, but the visitor can trace the development of Swedish design. The most popular piece there is the "non-violence" pistol — the muzzle is tied in a knot representing the peace symbol.

The European Community (EC) is also present at the Seville exposition. The pavilion, which houses the 12 EC countries, comprises twelve 31-metre towers and a sail-like structure linking the towers as a symbol of unity. The display inside the pavilion is an exhibition entitled "From Renaissance Europe to the Renaissance of Europe."

The Mexican pavilion, also a popular one, can be seen from a distance by its largest-in-the-world cactus. The recently built pavilion of the arts is a 15th century pavilion comprising 80 famous pieces from all over the world. "Nowhere can you see the originals of Picasso, Goya, Leonardo da Vinci and more, all in one building," commented a visitor.

Expo passports are sold almost in every corner so that when a visitor enters any pavilion, the passport will be stamped by that country.

By night one can see laser displays and fireworks or, while having dinner in France, China or Morocco, one can hear musical bands, in different areas, and concerts by renowned musicians. Every evening the Expo parade marches through the streets, followed by hundreds of passersby.

"This is a world in its own. Free-spirited, no attachments and no inhibitions," a passerby commented.



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6 Jordanian athletes to take part in Barcelona Olympic Games

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the countdown to the 1992 summer Olympics in Spain begins, Jordan's delegation to Barcelona has this week been announced with a surprise reduction from 11 to six athletes who now have a mere 2 months to train and prepare, hoping to represent Jordan by doing their utmost to achieve the best results possible.

The delegation now includes table tennis star Nadya Rashad, who qualified for the Olympics at the Asian Games, Fakhruddin Fuad, who has set a Jordanian record of two metres and 22 centimetres in the high jump, sprinter Awwad Sreys and Tae Kwon do team's Ammar Fahed, Tawfiq Nuweiser and Firas Al Jayousi, in addition to seven officials.

The original delegation included two swimmers: Yusef Al Zarou, who holds four Jordanian records, and Lara Demirjian, who holds seven Jordanian records. Marksman Khaled Naghaway and two other track and field athletes also comprised the Jordanian delegation.

According to Mr. Munzer Al Huneidi, assistant secretary-general at the Ministry of Youth and a member of the Jordan

Olympic Committee (JOC) who will be heading the Jordanian delegation to Barcelona, the reduction in the number of participants came upon the request of the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee who it seems realised they could not handle more than 15,000 athletes.

"It's the first time an organising committee limits the number of each delegation to this extent," Mr. Huneidi told the Jordan Times.

Commenting on the basis upon which Jordan's delegation was chosen in its present form, Mr. Huneidi explained: "Jordan is entitled to participate with athletes who have qualified for the Olympic Games (like Nadya Rashad), in addition to two athletes whose records are not subject to qualification. These include the two swimmers as well as the track and field athletes. The JOC chose the latter because they had recently competed in Arab and local tournaments and had achieved good results."

Mr. Huneidi said that three Tae Kwon do athletes would also be part of the delegation as part of the non-competitive sports in the Olympics.

As for marksman Khaled Naghaway, Mr. Huneidi explained that his exclusion from the delegation was because it

turned out that Naghaway had not participated in sufficient qualifying competitions except for one in Cairo, but he is still second on the waiting list for wildcard entries and might have a slim chance of going to the summer Olympic Games which will begin on July 25.

This of course leaves out Jordan's swimmers, who until two days prior to the announcement of the reduction in number were assured they would be competing in the Olympics and were training hard for the event.

Yusef Al Zarou sounded quite disappointed yet not so very surprised at the announcement. "This is a big setback for us, and I feel the explanation given for excluding swimmers is not very convincing. We opted not to participate in the Asian Games since we were told we were going to Barcelona. We ended up not going to either," Zarou told the Jordan Times.

"I can give you a long list of countries Jordan's national swimming team was supposed to compete in. We only read about them in the press but we never went," he added.

Head coach of Jordan's national swimming team Khamis Ghaith said he was disappointed to see two brilliant swimmers lose their chance to participate in the

Olympics, but he also was not surprised at the last minute change. "The final form of the delegation was decided only two days prior to the change, which in itself gave me the premonition something would go wrong," Ghaith said.

"My opinion is that since Jordan is eligible to include non-qualifying athletes, this chance should not have been solely given to track and field athletes so as to give other sports an incentive and something to look forward to and seriously train for," he said.

Prior to the official announcement of the Jordan's Olympic delegation this week, there was much speculation over the past four months as to which athletes would be participating (except for Nadya Rashad who actually qualified). The other athletes had been eagerly awaiting an official announcement by the JOC.

Many officials and observers agree that in order to achieve good results the formation of our national teams should not be for the event itself, rather it should be taken into consideration the importance of giving athletes ample time to prepare for the event, both mentally and physically, so that they can successfully represent their country and achieve the best possible results.

Aouita out to prove he is not done yet

NEW YORK (AP) — Said Aouita owns six world records, an Olympic gold medal, an Olympic bronze and the second and third-fastest mile times in history. Yet, he feels he has something to prove.

"I would like to prove that I am not finished," the 32-year-old Aouita said.

Aouita's concern with his public persona stems from a poor 1991 season, when he was slow recuperating from surgery to repair damaged muscles in both calves in June 1990. The most disappointing race of Aouita's 1991 season was at the World Championships in Tokyo, where he finished 11th in the 1,500 metres — one of the events in which he owns a world record.

"People take me to be finished now," Aouita said, "but I am not finished yet. Maybe in two or three years, maybe next year, not now."

Aouita thought he might be finished after undergoing the painful surgery two years ago. That was before he went to see Dr. David Cabara, a sports medicine specialist, in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Cabara convinced Aouita that he could regain the form that helped him set world outdoor records at 1,500 metres, 2,000 metres, 3,000 metres, 2 miles (3,200 metres) and 5,000 metres between 1985-89. He also won the 1984 Olympic 5,000-metre gold medal and the 1988 Olympic bronze at 800 metres.

"The doctor says I can now run 3:27 and break the world record in the 1,500 metres," said Aouita, who will show how far he has progressed when he runs the mile (1,600 metres) Sunday in the New York games at Columbia University.

Aouita has faith in Dr. Cabara. During the winter, after Aouita won a 3,000-metre race in 7 minutes, 41 seconds, the doctor told him he would break the world record in his next race. Two days later, on March 11, it happened, as the Moroccan ran a world record 7:36.36 at Pireans, Greece.

"So if he says I can do it, maybe he's right again," Aouita said.

Aouita blames his calf injuries, which first surfaced in 1988, on too much weightlifting. He was lifting the weights in order to strengthen himself for an unprecedented 800, 1,500, 5,000 triple at the Seoul games. The strategy backfired. Instead of improving



Said Aouita

the power in his legs, he wound up having surgery and losing all his leg power.

Now, he has abandoned the weights and is seeking to regain full power to run the 1,500 — his favourite event — at the Barcelona Olympics.

"If I get my full power back, maybe I will win," he said.

Other leading men in Sunday's Mobil Grand Prix meet include Leroy Burrell and Dennis Mitchell in the 100; Frankie Fredericks of Namibia, Danny Everett, Floyd Heard and Mitchell in the 200; Steve Lewis and Roberto Hernandez of Cuba in the 400; Paul Ereng of Kenya, Johnny Gray and Mark Everett in the 800; Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland, Joe Falcon and Jim Spivey in the mile (1,600 metres); Greg Foster, Roger Kingdom and Tony Dees in the 110-metre hurdles; Javier Sotomayor of Cuba, Patrik Sjöberg of Sweden and Hollis Conway in the high jump; Carl Lewis in the long jump, and Mike Conley in the triple jump.

The top women's entries include Gwen Torrence and Carlette Goidry in the 100; Little Leatherwood and Diane Dixon in the 400; Mary Slaney and Sonia O'Sullivan of Ireland in the mile (1,600 metres); Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Gail Devers and Kim McKeen in the 100 hurdles; and Joyner-Kersey and Galina Chistyakova of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the long jump.

Rosefinch wins at Longchamp

PARIS (R) — Rosefinch, owned by Sheikh Mohammed and ridden by Steve Cauthen, was the shock 18-1 winner of the group one Prix Saint-Alary at Longchamp Sunday.

The race was a major Prix De Diane (French Oaks) trial and the filly came off the pace to lead a furlong out, outdistancing the efforts of Jolypha to win by a short head. Both the winner and Jolypha are trained in France by Andre Fabre.

Verveine, the mount of Dominique Boeuf, was a head back in third, with Freddie Head's mount Trishyde half a length adrift in fourth.

Irish jockey Pat Eddery said afterwards that Jolypha, a full sister to Dancing Brave, would have won in another stride.

Both Rosefinch and Verveine were confirmed definite runners for the Prix De Diane at Chantilly on June 14.

Americans seek third French Open title in 4 years

PARIS (R) — A fearsome American tennis contingent, their 34-year Paris jinx finally banished, go into the French Open Monday with every chance of landing their third men's singles title in four years.

World number one, defending champion and title favourite Jim Courier leads the strongest American squad in years to mount an assault on the prized crown in the French capital.

Gone are the days when it seemed that no U.S. player would ever be able to boast of becoming French Open champion on the slow clay courts of Roland Garros, so ill-suited to the classic North American attacking game.

But the shock victory of the then 17-year-old Michael Chang in 1989, ending a seemingly eternal barren spell following Tony Trabert's 1955 triumph, pumped confidence into a generation of rising young players well able to look after themselves on clay.

Courier's day of glory followed — in an all-American final with Andre Agassi last year — and

there are not too many bets going against another American success this time.

Courier, one of six American seeds in the men's draw, used his Roland Garros victory last year as a stepping stone towards becoming the world's number one player, acquiring the coveted position atop the rankings this year after winning the Australian Open, first leg of the Grand Slam.

If he starts the logical favourite, Chang and Agassi are not far behind.

Chang, now 20, feels he has matured and improved vastly as a player since lifting the trophy on centre court in 1989.

"When I first won the title I wasn't ready for all the things that went with it," he told the sports daily L'Equipe in an interview published Saturday.

"Now I'm a bit older. I know what it is to be in the world's top 10. I was there, I dropped out and I got back. I know what I have to work for. Thanks to that, I think I can channel the pressure in the right direction."

Chang, like Courier, has a tough-looking path through the early part of the tournament with a first-round match against Dutchman Paul Haarhuis, who beat him in Hamburg earlier this month, followed by likely encounters with clay court specialist Omar Camporese of Italy and compatriot John McEnroe.

Agassi, losing finalist in each of the past two years, has an altogether easier-looking ride and could get into a last-16 tie with Frenchman Guy Forget or Emilio Sanchez of Spain without too much difficulty.

Of the other American seeds, the most fancied must be Aaron Krickstein, who reached the Monte Carlo Open final on clay last month, demolishing world number three Boris Becker of Germany in straight sets on the way.

Third seed Pete Sampras, while not really a clay court player, could go far but only if he can overcome a highly dangerous first-round opponent in the big-hitting Swiss Davis Cup player

Marc Rosset. However, Brad Gilbert, the 15th seed, is never happy at Roland Garros and will almost certainly not make much progress.

The biggest American heroes, as far as the Paris crowd are concerned, will be none of these. The most rapturous welcome will be reserved for veterans Jimmy Connors and McEnroe.

Fans will cheer themselves hoarse for the 39-year-old Connors when he takes on Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany in the first round, hoping he can reproduce some of the heroism he showed last year in taking Chang to a fifth set.

McEnroe, appearing for the last time, is long past the days when he could realistically expect to win Grand Slam tournaments.

But he is still capable of playing a few matches of the highest class and the emotional support for him will be hard to combat for his opponents, starting in the first round with Nicklas Kulti of Sweden.

Hanover wins German Cup

BERLIN (R) — Hanover became only the second division club to win the German Cup when they beat Borussia Moenchengladbach in a penalty shoot-out Saturday.

Hanover goalkeeper Joerg Sievers saved two penalties as his side won the shoot-out 4-3 at the end of extra time in scoreless match.

It was Hanover's first major title since their German Championship triumph in 1954.

Second division Kickers Offenbach upset Cologne in 1970. It was the second successive final decided on penalties.

Hanover join German holders Werder Bremen in next season's European Cup Winners' Cup.

"Penalties are all about luck and nerves," Sievers said. "The European competition takes second place today. What we have managed to achieve is the

most important thing."

Sievers, who made crucial penalty saves from Borussia midfielders Karlheinz Pfiffen and Holger Fach, has almost won Hanover the cup single-handed as penalty shoot-outs dominated the later stages of the competition.

In the semifinals the keeper scored from the spot and saved a penalty as the second division side upset holders Werder Bremen in a shoot-out.

Moenchengladbach reached the final after winning a semifinal shoot-out against Bayer Leverkusen.

The victory was just reward for Hanover who were not overawed by the occasion in front of a capacity 76,200 crowd.

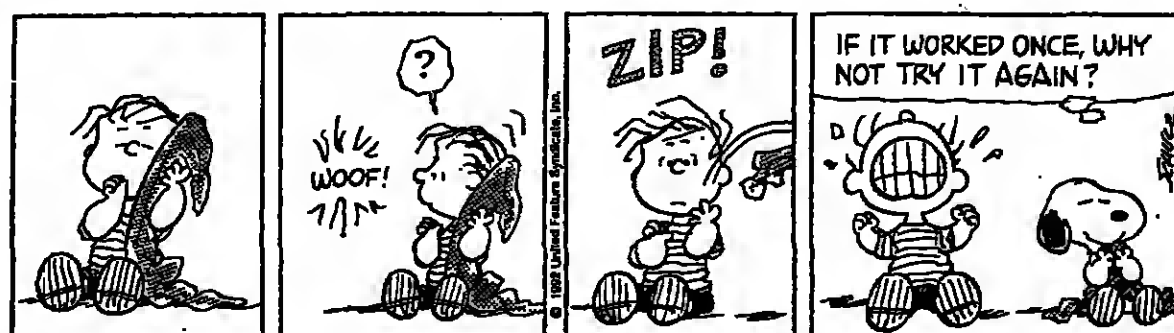
"Penalties are all about luck and nerves," Sievers said. "The European competition takes second place today. What we have managed to achieve is the

Spain wins tennis team title

DUESSELDORF, Germany (R) — Emilio Sanchez made a spirited fightback from one set down against Petr Korda to guide Spain to their World Team Cup Tennis title with victory over Czechoslovakia Sunday. Despite losing the first set, Sanchez, ranked 20th in the world, refused to give up against Korda in the opening rubber and triumphed 3-6 6-2 7-6 after a dramatic third-set tie-break in two hours and 10 minutes.

Sergi Bruguera sealed the issue after the second rubber with a 6-2 6-4 victory over Karel Novacek, giving the Spaniards a 2-0 winning lead before the final doubles. Spain last won the title in 1983 when they beat Australia in the final of the round-robin event which many players use as vital match practice on clay ahead of the French Open starting Monday.

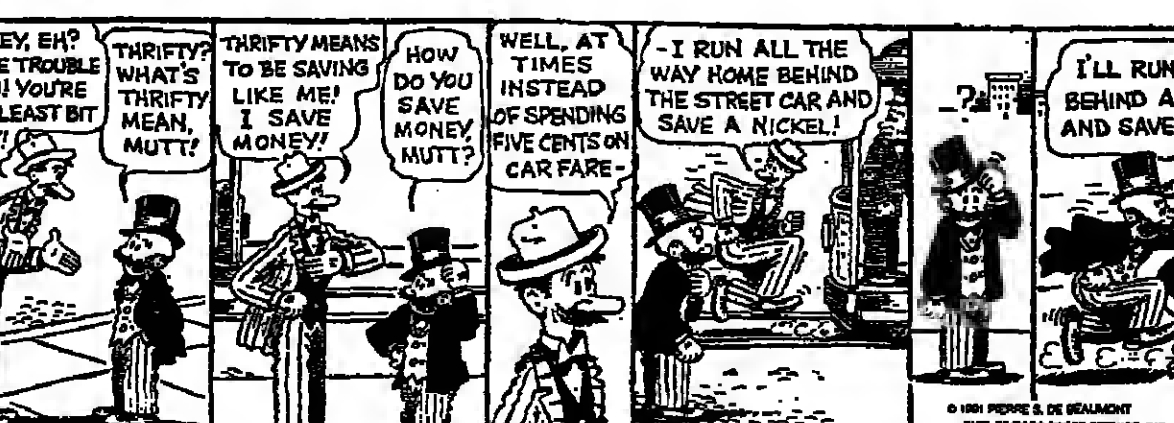
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 25, 1992

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: All signs are in your favour today and this evening. Your creative abilities attract more than one follower and the results will more than please you as you make worthwhile additions to your set-up.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is the moment for you to get into meetings or conference with partners for you should arrive at a new awareness of each other and mutual objectives.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can start this week right by coming to an understanding with fellow associates concerning the specific duties of each one of you with ease.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your romantic potential is high and you can have one of your happiest days, evenings by letting your attachment know of your affection.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider the most fascinating persons you want to know better or entertain for whatever reason and invite them into your home today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Consider what you can add to relationships with others that we get them to realise what a charming asset you can be doing something special for them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now are able to handle whatever credit matters arise in

such a manner that they are willing to go along with the business ideas you want to express.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are able to put your personal longings across to both friends and those with whom you have outside contact and have a truly wonderful time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A wonderful time to be with those in whom you have confidence and to join forces with them in intimate pleasures that release your burdens.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Group activities with persons who have the same basic interests as yourself can bring you advance knowledge and a great deal of pleasure.

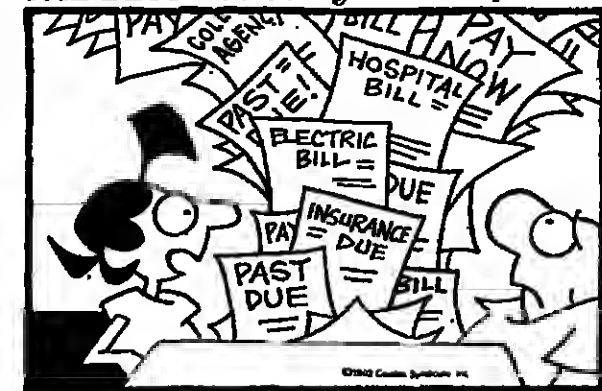
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you have a day when private conference with prominent persons brings you their good will and their assistance in your worldly ambitions.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Going with a friend to some new site where there is information you have been searching for brings you the right answers to any of your questions.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are naturally artistic as well as apt in details in business matters as well and you can combine these two talented expressions for quick advancement.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"We married for better or worse, for richer or poorer. When do we get the better and richer part?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SIPOU

FRADT

GONEPS

ROBRAW

MAY I HAVE A BASEBALL GLOVE FOR MY SON?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

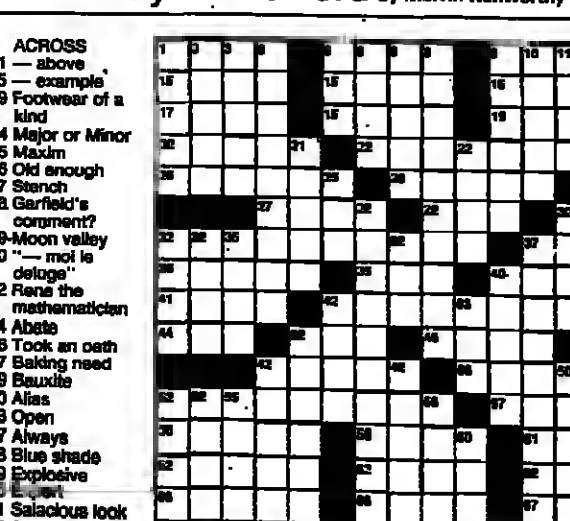
Answer here: "WE

Saturday's Jumbles: GROIN KNACK RADIUS ALWAYS

Answer: That night watchman manages to earn a living without doing this — A DAY'S WORK

THE Daily Crossword

by Melvin Kenworthy



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Puzzle Solved:



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

SPOT THE ERROR

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ A 9 3 2
♥ A J 6
♦ 8 5 4 2
♣ 8 3

WEST
♠ Q 7 5
♥ 8 5 4 2
♦ J
♣ K 6 5 4 2

EAST
♠ J 10 6
♥ K Q 10
♦ Q 7
♣ A Q J 9 7

SOUTH
♠ K 8 4
♥ 9 7 3
♦ A K 10 9 5 3
♣ 10

The bidding:

East South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 2 ♠ 3 ♠
4 ♠ 4 ♥ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

Study the play of this hand, dealt in a rubber-bridge game at the YMPL Card Group in New York, successor to the defunct Cavendish Club. A critical error was made. Can you spot it?

any form of bridge, since it would cost, at most, 100 points.

West led a low club. East rose with the ace and shifted to the king of hearts. Declarer, oft-time world champion Bob Hannan of Dallas, made a routine duck in dummy, forcing the defenders to switch the attack.

East reverted to a club. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps in two rounds and then played three rounds of spades. That set up a long spade in dummy to take care of the losing heart, and declarer lost only one trick in each side suit to fulfill the contract. Did you spot the error?

It occurred way back at trick one. It was West's choice of opening lead that is the heart of the issue.

West should have realized that it might be vital to start the defense on the right track, and the king of clubs was not likely to be an entry to the West hand — the bidding made it a near certainty that the defenders could not cash more than one club trick. Therefore, it was incumbent on West to lead the king of clubs!

That would have held the trick, and with dummy in view, the heart shift would have been easy to find, especially when East follows with the seven of clubs to request a switch to the lower-ranking side suit. Thus the defenders would collect two heart tricks, a spade and the king of clubs — down one.

Mazda reports 66% decline in net profit

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Mazda Motor Corporation has said that profits in the last fiscal year were down two-thirds on the year before and that this year does not look much better.

It said parent net profit in the year ended March 31 fell 66 per cent to 9.27 billion yen (\$71.3 million), from 27.01 billion yen (\$207 million) in the previous year.

Mazda, owned 23.9 per cent by Ford Motor Co, predicted net profit of just eight billion yen (\$61.5 million) in the 1992/93 fiscal year.

Profits were squeezed by stagnant demand in Japan and the United States, the yen's advance against the dollar and heavy sales, interest and depreciation costs, the company said.

But sales will continue to grow modestly due to good demand for luxury cars, it said.

"We expect the current situation to continue in the first half of the current fiscal year, then shift into a mild recovery in the second half," said senior managing director Makoto Miyagi.

Mazda said parent current profit in 1991/92 fell 60 per cent to 19.67 billion yen (\$151 million), while sales climbed a modest 3.5 per cent to 2.30 trillion yen (\$17.6 billion).

It also had a special loss of 2.53 billion yen (\$19.4 million) due to typhoon damage.

Mazda predicted parent current profit of 15 billion yen (\$115 million) in 1992/93 and sales of 2.43 trillion yen (\$18.6 billion).

OECD predicts Europe unemployment to remain high

PARIS (R) — The pace of economic growth will pick up this year and next but it will not be enough to shorten Europe's dole queues, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said.

In a series of forecasts, the think tank of 24 industrial nations said output in the OECD area was likely to expand by 1.8 per cent this year and by three per cent in 1993.

That would be an improvement on 1991's sluggish growth rate of 1.1 per cent and should trim overall OECD unemployment to 7.3 per cent of the work force in 1993 from 7.5 per cent this year.

But in Europe, where long-term unemployment is a growing concern of OECD and government officials alike, the outlook is bleak.

The jobless rate in Europe is projected to jump from 8.7 per cent in 1991 to 9.3 per cent this year and to stay at that level on average in 1993. The OECD is even forecasting a deterioration to 9.4 per cent in the first half of next year.

Top OECD officials have expressed a consensus that little can be done in the short term to lower interest rates or boost public spending to create more jobs.

"There's not a lot that can be expected on the macroeconomic policy front," a senior OECD official told reporters.

U.S. and Japanese interest rates are already low, he noted.

While the cost of money is being kept high throughout Europe by the German central bank's determination to crush inflationary pressures unleashed by unification.

Germany's partners in the European Monetary System have been pleading for relief, but the OECD official expressed understanding for Germany's tough anti-inflationary stance.

Although they had imported high interest rates from Germany, European countries had also benefited from unification by stepping up exports to Germany.

"Being in the same boat has drawbacks as well as advantages," the OECD official said.

Here are other highlights of the OECD's forecasts:

- Growth in the United States is likely to accelerate to 3.6 per cent next year from a modest 2.1 per cent pace in 1992.
- Japan, under pressure from its partners to boost its economy, will grow by no more than 1.8 per cent this year after 4.5 per cent in 1991.
- Inflation in the OECD area is likely to fall to 3.5 per cent this year from 4.1 per cent in 1991 and to ease further next year to 3.2 per cent.
- Inflation in west Germany is probably peaking. It will average 4.5 per cent this year, after 4.6 per cent in 1991, and fall back to 3.8 per cent in 1993, the OECD's economists say.

Iraq accuses S. Arabia of manipulating OPEC

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Iraqi Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti accused Saudi Arabia Sunday of dictating OPEC policy.

"OPEC ministers did not reach accord by their own free will," he told Reuters in Amman on his way home from a strategy meeting in Vienna. "It was imposed on them by Saudi Arabia."

The agreement consecrates for some time Saudi control over all OPEC decisions. They can dictate production limits and keep oil prices low," he pointed out.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ended a two-day strategy meeting in Vienna Friday.

Only Iraq, its exports bottled up by U.N. economic sanctions, refused to sign an agreement extending second-quarter production limits, around 23 million barrels per day (b/d), into the third quarter of 1992.

The ministers also agreed to let Kuwait increase its oil output as its damaged oil fields came back on line.

Mr. Hiti said he felt sure Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates would violate the agreed ceiling.

He said he did not expect a "big change" in oil prices, which averaged about \$17 a barrel for OPEC crude in the first three months of this year.

Mr. Hiti said it was "very obvious to us and to the United Nations" that the United States and Britain were obstructing any deal to let Iraq resume limited oil exports.

Iraq rejects U.N. terms which would deny it direct control of the income and allot part of it for Gulf war reparations and U.N. expenses.

Mr. Hiti said if an accord with the U.N. was reached now, Baghdad would be able within six weeks to export up to one million b/d of oil through its Mina Al Bakr terminal.

"By the end of the year, we would hope to reach the terminal's full export capacity of 1.6 million b/d," Mr. Hiti said.

The terminal was put out of action during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and had been repaired to the 400,000 b/d level when it was wrecked again in the 1991 war over Kuwait.

Kayhan: Iran's policies confuse investors

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's three exchange rates and frequent changes of economic regulations have confused would-be foreign investors, the English daily Kayhan International said Sunday.

"The prospective foreign investor who wants to make investment in Iran does not know which of the country's three widely different exchange rates referred to as official, floating or competitive would be used to convert his money either coming in as investment or going out as profit."

"The exchange rate is a problem that must be resolved before Iran can make any progress in attracting foreign investment," the daily said in an editorial.

It said the authorities gave no prior warning of changes in regulations and added: "Not before the government has balanced and integrated economic laws... can it be hopeful about attracting investment."

Calls for an open-door policy and a change of rigid economic laws have increased in Iran whose economy was shattered during the 1980-88 Gulf war with Iraq.

The daily said calls for joint investment "have not been successful as expected and despite its eye-opening advantages Iran remains a relatively mysterious investment spot."

Kazakhstan plans tanga to tango with the rouble

MOSCOW (R) — The former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan plans to introduce a new currency to run parallel with the Russian rouble, ITAR-TASS news agency has said.

another bankers' meeting scheduled for mid-June in the Estonian capital Tallin.

Huge oil deal

The Kazakhstan government has signed a \$20 billion joint venture agreement with Chevron Corp earlier this month to develop one of the world's biggest oil fields, located in the former Soviet republic.

giz and Korolev fields in western Kazakhstan, located near the Caspian Sea.

Chevron said the two have recoverable reserves of six billion to nine billion barrels of oil, making them one of the largest recoverable tracts in the world.

The project is expected to pump more than 700,000 barrels of crude oil a day by 2010.

The giant Tengiz field was discovered in 1979 and began producing in 1991. Current output is about 60,000 barrels a day. The Korolev field was discovered in 1986 and is expected to begin production in 1999.

About 600 wells will be required for the project, Chevron said. Roughly 60 have been drilled to date.

The agreement calls for each of the parties to hold a 50 per cent equity stake in the assets, which include the equipment and other facilities needed.

Income will be split less evenly, with Kazakhstan getting an 80 per cent share and Chevron the remaining 20 per cent.

The oil is slated to be sold first inside the CIS. But it will be sold abroad once export facilities are built in about five years, Chevron officials said.

Work by the joint venture is expected to begin in January 1993 after an operating agreement is finalized and other details are worked out, including a plan for an export pipeline possibly to the Black Sea.

The president of Kazakhstan called it "the greatest project that has ever been signed in the world," adding that the venture is "of paramount importance" to Kazakhstan.

Inflation in Egypt stays over 20%

CAIRO (R) — Inflation in Egypt's cities dropped to 21.0 per cent in the year to March, down from 21.3 per cent in February, according to official figures. The consumer price bulletin for March showed food and beverages had risen by 15.7 per cent in the year to March; rent, power and fuel by 32.4 per cent and transportation by 22.5 per cent.

Inflation rose sharply last year as Egypt began to implement a drastic reform programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, peaking at 26.1 per cent in January.

The reforms have included subsidy cuts on some foodstuffs and energy, price deregulation, and free interest and exchange rates.

Pakistan values security more than other developments

ISLAMABAD (R) — Finance Minister Sartar Aziz has said security concerns did not permit Pakistan to make the defence budget cuts demanded by aid donors.

"Our security is more important than other developments," he told a news conference a day after presenting to parliament the national budget for fiscal 1992/93 beginning July 1.

The budget gives \$2.15 billion rupees (\$3.26 billion) to defence, about 6.4 per cent more than in the previous year.

Mr. Aziz said there was no increase in real terms if inflation, a halt to U.S. military aid and the cost of pensions were taken into consideration.

Pakistan says defence will remain its top priority as long as it feels militarily threatened by traditional foe India, with which it has fought three wars since the two countries gained independence from Britain in 1947.

In the new Indian budget presented in February, defence spending went up by seven per cent to 175 billion rupees (\$6.1 billion), but it meant a cut in real terms for the second consecutive year because of high inflation and devaluation of the Indian currency by about 20 per cent against the dollar.

Pakistan has calculated inflation at 9.57 per cent for the three quarters of the fiscal 1991/92 until March. Its rupee has depreciated by about 6.02 per cent in the past one year.

Mr. Aziz said the value of U.S. military aid, suspended since October 1990, was equal to about 10 per cent of Pakistan's total defence spending. Another 10 per cent of the defence budget went to pensions paid to retired soldiers.

"So in real terms the defence spendings have not increased," he said.

The United States cut all military supplies and new economic aid to Pakistan when President George Bush could not certify to U.S. Congress that Islamabad was not making nuclear weapons.

Pakistan has refused to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) unless India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, does so too.

Mr. Aziz said tensions had ended on Pakistan's western border with Afghanistan, where pro-Pakistan guerrillas have taken power from a collapsed former communist government.

Islamabad was also working to defuse tension on the eastern border with India, he said.

Pakistan has allocated 14.8 billion rupees (\$587.3 million) for social development programmes, compared with 6.8 billion rupees (\$270 million) in the 1991/92 budget, despite security concerns, he said.

He defended the government decision against extending income tax to agriculture, saying that sector was already paying several other taxes, including export duty on cotton.

He said Pakistan had followed Islamic teachings in levying more taxes on the rich while the poor would benefit from the government-controlled Islamic funds of zakat and ushr.

Russian parliament approves IMF membership

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian parliament has ratified Russia's membership of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and gave the government the green light to continue its economic reforms.

Parliament voted by 127 for and just one against to approve Russia's decision to join the IMF and the World Bank.

"Entering the system of world currency and financial operations meets Russia's vital interests," President Boris Yeltsin said in a message to parliament.

Yegor Gaidar, the main architect of Russia's radical economic reform plans, told the deputies the money the Kremlin would get as a result of membership would be used primarily to help make the rouble convertible.

But he said a promise of \$2.2 billion to help Russia and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States service the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union was at the moment more important than other loans and future investments.

Russian currency reserves were in a poor state, he said.

Economics Minister Pyotr Aven told journalists in Washington last month the Russian Central Bank held reserves of \$60 million in currency and 170 tonnes of gold.

Mr. Gaidar said the government intended to introduce import taxes from July 1. At present imports are tax free.

Parliamentary chairman Ruslan

Khasbulatov, a leading critic of the government's reforms, succeeded in amending the resolution on ratification, obliging the government to coordinate its work with the international organisations with parliament.

The government must discuss with parliament how it plans to use a \$4.5 billion standby loan from the IMF.

Parliament also agreed with the government's proposal not to debate a separate second quarter budget.

Changes linked to last week's

energy price rise have not yet been incorporated into the cabinet's spending plans.

But parliament passed in principle a resolution on government spending in May and June, allowing the central bank to grant the finance ministry a 170 million rouble loan to cover the budget deficit. This is worth \$1.9 billion at the central bank's fixed "market rate."

The loan will be paid back over 10 years starting in 1996 at an annual interest rate of 10 per cent.

Financial Markets Foreign Exchange Market Summary May 18-May 22, 1992

AMMAN — Technical and interest rate considerations dominated last week's trading sessions, as market participants awaited an interest rate cut by the Fed that did not materialise. The dollar thus fluctuated narrowly before ending the week little changed against major currencies.

As the Mark and Swiss franc rallied Monday, the dollar fell considerably across the board. In Germany, expectations that interest rates would remain high to curb inflation were heightened after wage negotiations with the Metal workers Union ended with a wage rise of 5.8 per cent for 1992 and 3.4 per cent in 1993. The Swiss franc, on the other hand, rallied on news that the Swiss government has decided to seek EC membership.

Tuesday took the dollar to its lowest closing levels of the week at 1.5007 marks and 1.3385 dollars to the pound sterling. Observers attributed the dollar's weakness to an escalation in expectations of an imminent Fed interest rate cut following the release of a 17 per cent drop in April U.S. Housing Starts.

Hence, news on Wednesday that U.S. March Trade Deficit had widened to \$5.82 billion from \$3.4 billion in February, took the U.S. unit further down, during trading hours, hitting support at 1.59 marks. But the dollar rebounded on short covering before the close of business in New York as the Fed, contrary to expectations, refrained from cutting interest rates.

As fears of an imminent discount-rate cut subsided, the dollar continued its rise Thursday, ending at its highest levels for the week against most major currencies at 1.6108 marks and 1.3030 yen.

The mark advanced in technical profit taking Friday on the release of a smaller than expected 8.8 per cent growth in Germany's M3 money supply, reflecting favourably on the dollar. But the dollar retreated in New York after failure to decisively push the dollar through resistance at 1.6250 marks triggered a wave of profit-taking ahead of the long weekend.

While the German money supply figures have limited the prospects for an interest rate hike by the Bundesbank, according to some observers, it nevertheless, left analysts convinced that an easing would not take place soon. Market participants are still waiting to see if the Federal Reserve will move to lower interest rates in the next few weeks. As for the dollar, observers did not rule out a possible decline to 1.6000 marks in light of its failure to breach 1.6250 marks last Friday.

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	15. 5. 1992	22. 5. 1992
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.75	4.25
Sterling Pound	9.87	9.87
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.68
Swiss Franc	9.18	8.43
French Franc	9.81	9.81
Japanese Yen	4.71	4.53

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6780	0.6800
Sterling Pound	1.2313	1.2375
Deutsche Mark	0.4191	0.4212
Swiss Franc	0.4555	0.4578
French Franc	0.1247	0.1253
Japanese Yen	0.5243	0.5269
Dutch Guilder	0.3721	0.3740
Swedish Krona	0.1165	0.1171
Italian Lira	0.0557	0.0560
Belgian Franc	0.02034	0.02044

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Thais force premier out, demand murder trials

BANGKOK (R) — General Suchinda Kraprayoon resigned as Thai prime minister Sunday after 48 days in power, brought down by a people who braved the bullets of his soldiers to demand their leaders be democratically elected.

His last act as premier was to sign an amnesty absolving those who gave the orders to soldiers to gun down demonstrators.

But many people are demanding he and his military cronies — Army Commander-in-Chief General Issarapong Nonpakde, who is Gen. Suchinda's brother-in-law, and Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Kasat Rojananil — stand trial for murder.

Thais have won the battle against Gen. Suchinda, who took the premier's job without standing in elections, but it is not certain they have won the war to end military domination of politics.

Gen. Suchinda announced his own resignation on national television, saying he deeply regretted the bloodshed.

"I hope that as of this moment, every side will move to ease conflicts and differences in the interest of unity, reconciliation and cooperation in rectifying and normalising development in the interest of the nation and the people," he said.

The campaign to oust the former supreme commander ignited the worst political unrest in Thailand, a close U.S. ally, since students brought down a military dictatorship 19 years ago.

This time the pro-democracy movement united a spectrum of Thai society, filling the streets in peaceful protest around the figure of opposition leader Chamlong Srimuang.

Several times soldiers opened fire on packed crowds and a state

of emergency was declared Tuesday as riots erupted and anarchy threatened.

The official death toll from the violence stands at 46, with hundreds wounded. Diplomats and doctors say it could be double.

The Bangkok Post Sunday published a list compiled by non-government agencies of 343 people still unaccounted for.

News of Gen. Suchinda's downfall caused only muted celebration among the several thousand people gathered Sunday to mourn the dead at the democracy monument, scene of the worst bloodshed.

"The ones who gave the orders to kill the people should be brought to court," said Wanna Rungarat, 30.

Opposition leader Chavalit Yongchaiyudh said the parliamentary opposition would try to repeal the amnesty.

The Nation newspaper joined academics and activists in calling for Gen. Suchinda, Gen. Issarapong, and Air Marshal Kasat to stand trial.

Comparing the massacre to that in Peking in 1989, it said in an editorial: "In Tiananmen, the military was acting on behalf of a political elite. In Thailand, however, the military are the political elite out to protect their interests even if it means eradicating the people who are opposed to them."

The 59-year-old Suchinda led a coup which toppled an elected government in February 1991, the 10th successful military takeover in 60 years. He became prime minister on April 7 at the invitation of a pro-military coalition forged after inconclusive elections in March.

Analysts said the power of the army remained a threat.

"There needs to be a big-time

reorganisation in the army. The whole power structure should be changed, otherwise army commanders can always threaten the people," said Dr. Nuan Panmanee, dean of humanities at Bangkok University.

"This country has had so many coups — the army commanders always have much more power than the prime minister. That has to change."

Gen. Suchinda's fate was not clear and diplomats said he might leave the country for a while to allow passions to cool.

His whereabouts Sunday were not known although he showed up at a temple in the morning to seek the blessing of the supreme patriarch, spiritual leader of the Buddhist nation.

His departure from office was ordered Friday when the coalition deserted him, saying they would support constitutional changes requiring the prime minister to be elected.

Debate on the amendments will start in parliament Monday.

Deputy Premier Meechai Ruchchuporn is likely to take over as interim prime minister, political sources said.

The seven days that shook Bangkok also shattered the image of a country known as the land of smiles that has been for two decades an oasis of relative peace as wars and revolution gripped its neighbors.

Its charms have lured millions of foreign tourists to its beaches and bars while frenzied foreign investment has pushed it to challenge Asia's economically dynamic "tiger" states.

"Even if the current unrest is cleared up, overseas investors will think twice now that Thailand has shown itself open to risk," said one Bangkok-based foreign businessman.

Bosnian gauntlet makes army hesitate in Sarajevo

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav soldiers and their families blocked inside barracks in Sarajevo hesitated to run a gauntlet of Muslim barricades Sunday despite promises of a safe passage out of the Bosnian capital.

Local journalists said tension in the city was high after a heavy overnight bombardment by Serb forces set fire to several buildings including the Holiday Inn Hotel.

The evacuation of the four barracks should have begun on Saturday morning and been completed by Sunday evening.

Bosnian presidential adviser Hajrudin Sornin, stressing the government's impatience over the delay, said by telephone:

"We absolutely guarantee a safe passage to these army personnel because we want to see an end to this nightmare and let those people go wherever they want."

The number of military personnel trapped in the barracks was estimated in hundreds including some combat troops.

The mainly-Muslim Bosnian Territorial Defence (TO) force said there were 250 military cadets, 80 reservists and 72 women and children in the big Marshal Tito Garrison which launched tank assaults on Sarajevo this month.

To get out of the battered capital, evacuation convoys will have to thread through a maze of checkpoints and tank traps built by the city's Muslim and Croat defenders.

Western diplomats said military commanders might fear attacks on the withdrawing troops as has happened during previous evacuations by the Serb-led army in Sarajevo and northern Tuzla.

The last government objection to the emptying of the barracks was removed by the surrender of several thousand army pistols and rifles by Serb militia forces who took possession of them illegally.

These were due to be handed over to the TO at the Sarajevo headquarters of the United Nations mission.

Mr. Sornin said the government had agreed the army could take all of its own equipment, including tanks and heavy weapons, when it left the barracks.

Bosnia's Muslim and Croat populations blame the army for helping the country's Serb minority mount a rebellion which has cost more than 2,200 lives since March.

Serb forces now control two thirds of Bosnia where fierce fighting raged during the weekend in the north and west.

Mr. Sornin said the latest clashes in Sarajevo were among the worst the city has suffered in the last month during which most of its centre has been reduced to rubble.

The Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug reported 19 Serbs had been killed in fighting around Gorazde in eastern Bosnia and that Muslim losses were higher.

Fighting has also continued in neighbouring Croatia despite the presence of U.N. peacekeeping forces.

Zagreb Radio said suburbs of the ancient port of Dubrovnik on the Adriatic were attacked with mortars last night after the Yugoslav army halted its withdrawal from the region.

More than 300 shells slammed into the Adriatic town of Zadar, it added.

Moldova moves towards war-footing

MOSCOW (R) — Moldova's president Sunday moved his tiny country toward a war-footing, ordering the call up of reserves and other measures to combat what he called armed aggression by the Russian-backed army.

ITAR-TASS News Agency, citing President Mircea Snegur's orders, said the steps also included guaranteed financing and provisions for the defence forces and state supervision for defence-related industries.

And he put the resources of the defence, National Security and Interior Ministries under his own control as commander-in-chief.

The emergency orders followed an appeal Saturday to the

"The Ministry of Defence, along with the Ministries of Internal Affairs and National Security are called upon to... implement a series of measures to defend the republic from naked armed aggression by units of the 14th Army," TASS said.

Moldova has accused Russia, which now controls the former Soviet 14th Army, of deploying its men and equipment on behalf of Russian-speaking separatists now in open rebellion inside the republic. Moscow vigorously denied the charge.

The emergency orders followed an appeal Saturday to the

United Nations for support against what Moldova said was Russian-led aggression.

The small country in the south-western corner of the former Soviet Union also said it would take unspecified measures to halt unauthorised flights over its airspace — a move aimed at curtailing arms supplies to rebellious regions.

In a telegramme to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, President Mircea Snegur said a breakaway region on the left bank of the Dniestr River had been occupied by the 14th Army, now fully under Russian control.

Japan Socialists dare LDP to call elections

TOKYO (R) — "It is worth seeking the people's judgment on the peace-keeping bill."

With those words Makoto Tanabe, leader of Japan's Socialist opposition party, called the government's bluff and set the scene for a rowdy week in parliament and possible snap general elections in July.

Top figures in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had been turning up the temperature on opposition parties blocking passage of its controversial bill to allow Japanese troops to serve overseas as U.N. peacekeepers.

"If (the Socialists) raised their ugly heads and opposed the U.N. Peacekeeping Operation (PKO) bill, we could dissolve the lower house of parliament," Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Saturday.

LDP Secretary-General Tamioka Watanuki said any Socialist walk-out when the measure went to a vote could lead the government to call elections 18 months ahead of schedule.

On Saturday night, Mr. Tanabe gave the Socialists' answer.

"If the lower house is dissolved and general elections held, we will take up the challenge," he told a news conference in Okayama, western Japan.

His party was ready for dissolution of the chamber, the more powerful of the two houses of the Diet, any time Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa decided on a snap poll.

For weeks now the LDP, whose PKO bill has been mired down in the opposition-control-

led upper house, has hinted at dissolving the lower house and holding double elections this July, when nationwide polls are due to replace half the upper house.

Conventional wisdom was that the opposition had more to lose than to gain by provoking an early showdown with the conservative, pro-business party which has ruled Japan since 1955.

No matter how low the LDP's rating in the opinion polls, recent history shows that in both 1980 and 1986, when it opted for double elections, voters played safe and renewed their lease on power rather than trust an untried, divided opposition.

This time, however, Mr. Tanabe's Socialists appear to be spotting for a fight.

CIS aid talks look for new approaches

LISBON (R) — Ministers from 60 countries resumed their conference Sunday to help former Soviet republics to become market economies with donors already talking of the need for a new state-by-state approach to aid.

A flurry of bilateral meetings were scheduled in the margins of the conference, which ends after the morning session.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev were due to meet over lunch, with the prospects for fresh sanctions against Serbia over its role in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina likely to feature on the agenda.

On Saturday night, Mr. Baker, Mr. Kozyrev and representatives of Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus signed a protocol to the strategic nuclear weapons treaty (START) committing the nuclear heirs of the old Soviet Union to abide by its terms.

Another agreement to set up a Science and Technology Centre for former Soviet weapons scientists and engineers is due to be initiated at the conference.

The 11 members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Georgia came to Lisbon armed with priority checklists for world finance and advice in areas from banking to business, transport to telecom-

munications.

They also requested more emergency drugs and hospital equipment amid medical warnings that the rapid deterioration of health care in the ex-Soviet states was putting at risk the lives of millions of children, women and pensioners.

"The message of this conference is that world assistance... is on track," said European Community (EC) official Alan Mayhew, one of the conference organisers.

He told journalists Saturday the need for technical assistance in the form of shared expertise and training was taking over as the main priority from short-term food and medical aid.

Officials said new aid coordination groups might soon be established to look at republics' individual needs.

They said a third major international CIS aid conference, due to be held in Tokyo later this year, was likely to be the last of its kind.

An European Commission spokesman said the EC executive would soon present the 12-nation Community with plans for new trade and cooperation agreements with the independent states.

Commission officials said they would have to study proposals by Mr. Baker Saturday to target aid

at three key areas — improving nuclear safety, converting defence industries to peaceful purposes and food distribution.

Delegates from ex-Soviet states also put reforming banks and other financial services, privatisation and energy and transport industry reconstruction at the top of their lists for technical assistance to make the tough transition to market economies.

"The most effective help for a new democracy in the process of active conversation to a free market economy is the transfer of know-how and technology," Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisyan told the conference.

Georgia said its catastrophic economic problems were raising the spectre of famine with state coffers empty and grain supplies enough for just 10 days.

But it said Georgians were committed to reform, calling for technical aid to privatise land, industry, property and services.

Moldovan Foreign Minister Nicolai Teso said farmers badly needed animal fodder, while the government wanted advice in areas ranging from tax-gathering to agrarian reform.

Mr. Kozyrev urged action to improve security at nuclear power plants in his country and help to demobilise soldiers and provide them with jobs.

Lithuania presidential referendum fails

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) — A referendum aimed at creating an American-style executive presidency failed to garner enough support, preliminary results showed Sunday.

Only 57.5 per cent of the country's 2.5 million eligible voters went to the polls Saturday to cast ballots, said Vaclovas Litvinas, deputy chairman of the Electoral Commission. The turnout was enough to make the referendum valid, but not enough to give Lithuanian leader Vyantas Landsbergis a victory in restoring an executive presidency.

Although 69.4 per cent of voters who cast ballots said "yes," it was not enough to pass the re-

ferendum, which under Lithuanian law requires more than half of all eligible voters to approve the measure.

Mr. Landsbergis, who sometimes has been called president although he is formally parliament chairman, presented the plebiscite as a test of his government's popularity and a way to bolster his clout for demanding withdrawal of at least 35,000 former Soviet troops.

After the initial results were announced, Mr. Landsbergis said, "It is clear that the referendum is valid, but it didn't give us a decision."

He said that parliamentary

elections would be held no later than Oct. 15, and that he hoped elections for a president would follow.

Critics of the referendum said creation of a presidency without checks and balances could be dangerous for the country, which won its formal independence from the Soviet Union just 10 months ago.

The turnout was low compared to previous votes, particularly the independence referendum that drew 99 per cent.

Lithuania had a president until World War II, before the country was absorbed into the Soviet Union.

Ramos builds commanding lead in poll race

MANILA (AP) — Fidel Ramos built a commanding lead Sunday in the presidential race after a defiant rival began a hunger strike to demand an end to alleged vote fraud.

Gen. Ramos, who is supported by outgoing President Corason Aquino, was about 1 million votes ahead in the count from the May 11 election, which has been marred by charges of ballot rigging and other violations.

Congress was to meet Monday to review returns and proclaim a winner to succeed Mrs. Aquino, whose term ends on June 30. Congressional leaders said the actual vote review probably would not begin until Tuesday.

Legislators can challenge the returns, but there are fears that a delay in naming a new president could lead to a political crisis and a military takeover.

Presidential candidate Miriam Santiago, who led in early tallies but has dropped to third, claims the count has been delayed to rig results for Gen. Ramos. She vowed to take only liquids until Mrs. Aquino halts the alleged irregularities.

Media Citizens Quick Count, the only government-authorized tabulation service, said Gen. Ramos was leading with 3,810,282 votes, or 24.46 per cent, with nearly 67 per cent of the votes counted.

The group said Eduardo Cojuangco, an ally of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, has 2,818,363 votes, or 18.09 per cent. Mrs. Santiago trailed with 2,639,465 votes, or 17 per cent.

Mrs. Santiago, a 46-year-old former judge and agrarian reform secretary, entered the Philippine Heart Centre in suburban Quezon City Saturday to begin her fast "to the death if necessary."

The government and much of the establishment media, however, scoffed at the hunger strike as another publicity stunt by the media-conscious Mrs. Santiago.

"I don't think this is necessary and I don't think it will bring her anywhere," Mrs. Aquino's chief aide, Franklin Drilon, said of the hunger strike.

Mr. Drilon has denied cheating on behalf of Gen. Ramos, 64.

None of the charges of massive fraud has been proven.

Mrs. Aquino took power in 1986 after a mass uprising that was triggered by public outrage over electoral fraud in the election between her and Mr. Marcos.

Anti-mafia hero killed in Italy highway bombing

PALERMO, Sicily (AP) — The most sensational mafia assassination in 10 years has prompted demands by politicians that parliament elect a president to give the country leadership at a crucial moment.

Giovanni Falcone, Italy's leading anti-mafia crusader, was killed Saturday along with his wife and three other people when explosives police says were planted by the mafia blew up their convoy about 22 kilometres outside Palermo.

Palermo prosecutor Pietro Giammanco said four cars — Mr. Falcone's and three escort vehicles — were blown up by tonnes of explosives planted under an overpass, according to the Italian News Agency (ANSA).

The section of the two-lane

highway, shown on RAI Television, was completely destroyed. The charred hulks of cars were half-covered by rubble. A total of seven cars were destroyed in the bombing, it said.

Former premier Bettino Craxi and other political leaders, shocked by the assassination, Saturday demanded that parliament elect a president.

For the first time since World War II, Italy has neither a prime minister nor president. Premier Giulio Andreotti resigned April 24, and President Francesco Cossiga quit a day later.

Major political parties have been unable to put together a new government and the parliament has failed to elect a president. Italy's head of state, who designates the premier.

Indian diplomat freed after torture in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — A senior Indian diplomat who was abducted in Islamabad Sunday was freed after several hours of beating and electric shocks, he said.

Rajesh Mittal told reporters he believed he had been snatched and tortured by Pakistani intelligence officials.

Mr. Mittal, the fourth ranked Indian diplomat in Islamabad, said he had been held for more than five hours and kept blindfolded for most of the time.

"They did not say who they were. But wherever we go we are followed and we are pretty familiar with the faces and the cars," the 40-year-old diplomat said.

"They did not announce that we are intelligence but it was pretty obvious."

"After being snatched outside his house as he left for work in

the morning, Mr. Mittal said he was taken to some woodland for questioning then to a house where he was beaten and tortured.

He was twice given electric shocks, once to the ears and once to his stomach.

"When they applied the shocks I fainted. I do not know how long the duration was. The clips were gone when I woke up."

Mr. Mittal said he refused to sign a confession that he was found with a secret Pakistani document and was eventually taken to a police station in Islamabad's diplomatic area where he was handed over to colleagues from the High Commission.

"You have got the message. Now go and tell your government," he quoted one of his attackers as saying.

French tycoon-minister quits; Socialists relieved

PARIS (R) — The resignation of French tycoon-turned-minister Bernard Tapie, facing indictment over a business dispute, brought temporary relief Sunday to a Socialist government dogged by financial scandals.

The affair was the first setback for new Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy, who has revived the government's popularity since he took office last month declaring war on corruption and promising a "moralisation of public life."

Opposition spokesmen said Mr. Tapie's sudden ouster as minister of urban affairs raised the question of why President Francois Mitterrand had appointed just 51 days ago a man known to be under investigation over his business dealings and the finances of his soccer club.

"Mr. Tapie's entry into government symbolised the dubious marriage between politics and money for which the Socialist

Party has been responsible for years," centre-right politician Hervé De Charette said.

Mr. Berégovoy's office announced the resignation in a late-night statement Saturday after a week of mounting pressure on the flamboyant owner of the Adidas sports equipment empire and of French soccer champions Olympique De Marseille.

(Mr. Tapie) asked to be relieved of his duties in the interest of defending himself with full liberty of expression, including in public, against accusations arising from differences in his business affairs," it said.

"The prime minister took note of this decision," it said. "He expects justice to cast full light on this affair with independence and diligence."

Mr. Berégovoy left open the possibility that Mr. Tapie might return to the government if cleared of wrongdoing.

Countdown begins for world environment summit

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The show is expensive, the plot complicated and the cast huge, but the theme is deadly serious — securing life on Earth.

Within days, more than 100 heads of state and government begin arriving in Rio De Janeiro for what organisers bill as the biggest summit in world history.

Their challenge: To change the way mankind lives before the Earth changes it for us.

Plenty of people around the world question the doomsday scenarios of disaster offered up over the years by some environmentalists, but more and more mainstream experts are now warning that action is needed.

A United Nations report this month, for example, said soaring pollution, indiscriminate logging, unchecked population growth and major climate changes threaten the world with drought, flooding, disease and devastation.

Without controls, world population will double by the year 2030 and industrial output will need to quintuple just to meet the newcomers' needs, it added. At the same time, more than 100 plant and animal species

are being made extinct every day. The June 3-14 Rio meeting — officially known as the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) — hopes to change all that.

Its answer is "sustainable development" — finding ways to make the world richer without wrecking its environment or exhausting natural resources.

Negotiators hope the concept will unite rich nations, who fret about damage to the environment, and poorer ones, who say development comes before conservation.

"Sustainable development should be a way of satisfying both North and South," says Marcos Azambuja, chief negotiator for the host nation Brazil. "It's the first stage of a new, more ethical design for the world."

What fit all will cost is an open question.

Maurice Strong, a Canadian oil millionaire who is secretary-general of the conference, has priced a global clean-up at hundreds of billions of dollars. But nobody believes the politicians in Rio will come up with anything like that much.

Diplomats say \$7 billion to \$10

billion a year of new resources for the developing world is a more likely target, though the exact amount will depend on how the conference goes.

Another \$40 billion or so of existing resources from the World Bank, the United Nations and individual countries' aid programmes will probably be relabelled and counted as "green" money.

To back their pledges, world leaders are expected to sign five documents in Rio:

— A treaty to control emissions of so-called greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, pollutants that scientists blame for heating up the Earth's climate.

— A treaty protecting the world's natural wealth and offering ways to share the benefits from biotechnology.

— A statement of intentions for managing the world's forests.

— The Rio Declaration, setting out the principles of the new relationship between people and nature.

Already been hammered out in months of painstaking negotiations and will arrive at Rio almost ready for signing.

Practically all of them have been watered down to take account of the dramatic differences of opinion between countries over how to tackle global environmental problems.

The climate treaty, for example, sets no specific targets for cutting greenhouse-gas emissions and the forests document is little more than a set of ideas.

Environmentalists have attacked the treaties as a sell-out but negotiators argue it was worth making some concessions to get agreements that everyone — from both rich world and poor — could sign.

After all, they say, the stakes are high.

"We will succeed because we must succeed," strong told a public meeting in Geneva last month, adding that a failure in Rio could create a North-South rift that would take years to heal.

"Eighty per cent of the world's people are in the Third World. We simply can't do without them," he said.

Philippine 'man' 6 months pregnant

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines — A 32-year-old government employee in the southern Philippines has got doctors in a spin — he's six months pregnant.

The male nurse has been examined by several doctors who have confirmed the pregnancy. The man, whose name has not been made public but who has been given the nickname "Carlo," is an hermaphrodite with both male